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REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

Ackermann's Forget Me Not for 1831.
London.

THIS very pretty volume is the first to take the field, and, as usual, does equal credit to the taste and industry of its publishers, who allude with most justifiable vanity to its success, not only on its own soil, but in more remote countries; and truly it may well beguile even a sultry morning by the Ganges. We cannot but think this ought to stimulate to still further efforts—for though we do not hold works of this class amenable to any strict criticism, yet we are of opinion that the literary department would be improved. There is a very fine poem, "Esther," by Croly—some sweet lines by L. E. L.—and one of those supernatural legends Hogg tells so well, imparting that air of belief which gives them so much of reality; but the rest of the pages are too much filled up by contributions of that kind which it is classically said the gods hate. Among the contents, however, the "Painter of Pisa" has something of originality to recommend it—"Daddy David, the Negro," by the Old Sailor, is affecting—and the following tale strikes us as being very humorously told.

"*The Haunted Hoghead: a Yankee Legend.*"—You don't live to Boston, then, do you? No; I calculate you are from the old country, though you speak English almost as well as I do. Now, I'm a Kentucky man, and my father was to Big-bone Creek, in old Kentucky, where he could lather every man in the state; but I could lick my father. Well, when I first came to Boston, I guess, I was a spry, active young fellow, and cruel tall for my age; for it's a pretty considerable long time ago, I calculate. So first I goes to look out for Uncle Ben—you've heard of him and his brown mar, I reckon—and I finds Uncle Ben at Major Hickory's Universal Transatlantic Hotel, by Charles Bay, in East Boston, taking a grain of mighty fine elegant sangaree, with Judge Dodge and President Pinkney the Rowdey, that built the powerful large log mansion-house in Dog's Misery, in the salt-marshes out beyond Corlear's Hook, in New York. I was always a little bit of a favourite with Uncle Ben, and so he says to me, 'Jonathan W.,' says he—for he calls me Jonathan W. for short—I'll tell you what it is, says Uncle Ben; 'you come out mighty bright this morning, I motion that you take a drop of whisky-toddy or so.' 'Oh yes, Uncle Ben,' says I; 'I should admire to have a grain, if it's handsom.' 'Considerably superb,' says he; 'it's of the first grade, I guess; for Major Hickory keeps wonderfully lovely liquors; and I can tell you a genuine good story about them, such as, I guess, you never heard before, since you was raised.' And then he up and told such a tale, that the helps all crowded round him to hear it, and swore it was better than a sermon—so it was. And as you're a stranger from the old country, and seem a right-slick-away sort of a chap, without a bit of the gentleman about you, and

are so mighty inquisitive after odd stories, why I don't mind telling it to the 'Squire myself; and you may depend upon it that it's as true and genuine as if you had heard it from Uncle Ben himself, or July White, his old woolly-headed nigger. You must know, then, that the Universal Transatlantic Hotel was built an awful long time before I was raised; though my Uncle Ben remembered a powerful grand wood-house that stood there before it, which was called the Independent Star of Colombia, kept by Jacobus Van Soak, who came to Boston from the old, ancient, veteran Dutch settlers of New York. It was some time after fall in the year 77, that a mighty fierce squall of wind blew down some of the wall of the house where the cellar was, quite to the very foundation. I reckon that the old host was a little bit maddened at this—he was; though he bit in his breath, and thought to drive in some new stakes, put up fresh clap-boards, and soon have it all slick and grand again; but, in so doing, as he was taking out the piles underneath the house, what does he find but an awful great big barrel, and a cruel heavy one it was, and smelled like as if it was a hoghead of astonishingly mighty fine old ancient rum. I'll lay you'll never guess how they got it out of the cellar, where they found it—because they never moved it all, I calculate; though some of the helps and neighbours pulled and tugged at it like *natur!* But the more they worked, the more the barrel wouldn't move; and my Uncle Ben said that mighty *strange* sounds came out of it, just as if it didn't like to be disturbed and brought into the light; and that it swore at the helps and niggers in English and Spanish, Low German and High Dutch. At last, old Van Soak began to be a little bit *afraid*, and was for covering it up again where he found it, till my Uncle Ben vowed it should'n't be buried without his having a drop out of it, for he was a bold, active man, that cared for nothing, and loved a grain of rum, or sangaree, or whisky-toddy, or crank, or any other *fogmatic*, to his heart, he did. So down in the cellar he sets himself, drives a spigot into the barrel, and draws him a glass of such mighty fine elegant rum, as was never seen before in all Boston. 'Handsom! considerably handsom! mighty smart rum, I guess,' says my Uncle Ben, as he turned it down; 'mild as mother's milk, and bright as a flash of lightning! By the pipe of St. Nicholas, I must have another grain!' So he filled him another glass, and then Jacobus plucked up heart, and he took a grain or two, and the helps and bystanders did the same; and they all swore it was superbly astonishing rum, and as old as the Kaatskill mountains, or the days of Wouter Van Twiller, the first Dutch Governor of New York. Well, I calculate that they might at last be a little bit staggered, for the rum ran down like water, and they drank about, thinking, you see, that all the strength was gone; and as they were in the dark cellar, they never knew that the day was progressing powerfully fast towards night; for now the barrel was quiet again, and they

began to be mighty merry together. But the night came on cruel smart and dark, I reckon, with a pretty terrible loud storm; and so they all thought it best to keep under shelter, and especially where such good stuff was to be had free, gratis, for nothing, into the bargain. Nobody knows now what time it was, when they heard a mighty fierce knocking on the top of the barrel, and presently a hoarse voice from the inside cried out, 'Yo ho, there, brothers! open the hatchway and let me out!' which made them all start, I calculate, and sent Van Soak reeling into a dark corner of the cellar, considerably out of his wits with fright and stout old rum. 'Don't open the hoghead,' cried the helps and neighbours, in mighty great fear; it's the devil! 'Potstausend!' says my Uncle Ben—for you must know that he's a roistering High-German: 'you're a cowardly crew,' says he, 'that good liquor's thrown away upon.' 'Thunder and storm!' called out the voice again from the barrel, 'why the Henker don't you unship the hatches? Am I to stay here these hundred years?' 'Stille! mein Herr!' says my Uncle Ben, says he, without being in the least bit *afraid*, only a little maddened and wondered he was; 'behave yourself handsom, and don't be in such a pretty particular considerable hurry. I'll tell you what it is; before you come out, I should like to make an *enquiry* of you—Who are you? where were you raised? how have you got along in the world? and when did you come here? Tell me all this *speedily*, or I shall decline off letting you out, I calculate.' 'Open the hoghead, brother!' said the man in the tub, says he, 'and you shall know all, and a pretty considerable sight more; and I'll take mighty good care of you for ever, because you're an awful smart, right-slick-away sort of a fellow, and not like the cowardly land-lubbers that have been sucking away my rum with you.' 'Hole mich der Teufel!' said my Uncle Ben, 'but this is a real rig'lar Yankee spark, a tarnation stout blade, who knows what a bold man should be; and so, by the Henker's horns, I'll let him out at once.' So, do you see, Uncle Ben made no more ado but broke in the head of the barrel; and what with the storm out of doors, and the laughing and swearing in the cask, a mighty elegant noise there was while he did it, I promise you; but at last there came up out of the hoghead a short, thick-set, truculent, sailor-looking fellow, dressed in the old ancient way, with dirty slops, tarnished gold-laced hat, and blue, stiff-skirted coat, fastened up to his throat with a mighty sight of brass buttons, Spanish steel pistols in a buffalo belt, and a swingeing cutlass by his side. He looked one of the genuine privateer, bull-dog-breed, and his broad, swelled face, where it was not red with rage, or the good rum, was black or purple; marked, I reckon, with a pretty considerable many scars, and his eyes were almost starting out of his head. If the helps and neighbours were *afraid* before, they were now astounded outright; I calculate; and especially so when the *strange*

sailor got out of his hogshead, and began to lay about him with a fist as hard and as big as a twelve-pounder cannon-shot, crying like a bull-frog in a swamp.—'Now I shall clear out! A plague upon ye all for a crew of cowardly, canting, lubberly knaves! I might have been sucked dry, and staid in the barrel for ever, if your comrade had borne no stouter a heart than you did.' Well, I guess, that by knocking down the helps and the neighbours he soon made a clear ship; and then, striding up to my Uncle Ben, who warn't not at all *afraid*, but was laughing at the fun, he says to him, says he, 'As for you, brother, you're a man after my own kidney, so give us your fin, and we'll be sworn friends, I warrant me.' But as soon as he held out his hand, Uncle Ben thought he saw in it the mark of a red horse-shoe, like a brand upon a nigger, which some do say was the very stamp that the devil put upon Captain Kidd, when they shook hands after burying his treasure at Boston, before he was hanged. 'Hagel!' says my Uncle Ben, says he, 'what's that in your right hand, my friend?' 'What's that to you?' said the old sailor. 'We mariners get many a broad and deep red scar, without talking about, or marking them; but then we get the heavy red gold, and broad pieces along with them, and that's a tarnation smart plaster, I calculate.' 'Then,' says my Uncle Ben again, 'says he, 'may I make an *enquiry* of you? Where were you raised? and who's your Boss?' 'Oh!' says the sailor, 'I was born at Nantucket, and Cape Cod, and all along shore there, as the nigger said; and for the captain I belong to, why he's the chief of all the fierce and daring hearts which have been in the world ever since time began.' 'And, pray, where's your *plunder*?' says my Uncle Ben to the *strange* sailor; 'and how long have you been in that hoghead?' 'Over long, I can tell you, brother; I thought I was never going to come out, I calculate. As for my plunder, I reckon I don't shew every body my locker; but you're a bold fellow enough, and only give me your paw to close the bargain, and I'll fill your pouch with dollars for life. I've a stout ship, and comrades ready for sea, and there's plunder every where for lads of the knife and pistol, I reckon; though the squeamish Lord Bellamont does watch them so closely.' 'Lord who?' says Uncle Ben, a *little* bit maddened and wondered. 'Why, Lord Bellamont, to be sure,' answered the *strange* sailor, 'the English governor of New England, and admiral of the seas about it, under King William the Third.' 'Governor and admiral in your teeth!' says my Uncle Ben again; for now his pluck was up, and there warn't no daunting him then; 'what have we to do with the old country, your kings, or your governors? this is the free city of Boston, in the independent United States of America, and the second year of liberty, seventy-seven, I reckon. And as for your William the Third, I guess he was dead long before I was raised, and I'm no cokerell. I'll tell you what it is, now, my smart fellow, you've got pretty considerably drunk in that rum cask, if you've been there ever since them old ancient days; and, to speak my mind plain, you're either the devil or Captain Kidd. But I'd have you to know I'm not to be scared by a face of clay, if you were both; for I'm an old Kentuck Rowdey, of Town-Fork by the Elkhorn; my breed's half a horse and half an alligator, with a cross of the earthquake! You can't poke your fun at me, I calculate; and so, here goes upon you for a villain, any way!' My Uncle Ben's pluck was now

all up; for pretty considerably maddened he was, and could bite in his breath no longer; so he flew upon the *strange* sailor, and walked into him like a flash of lightning into a gooseberry-bush, like a mighty, smart, active man as he was. Hold of his collar laid my Uncle Ben, and I reckon they did stoutly struggle together for a *tarnation* long time, till at last the mariner's coat gave way, and shewed that about his neck there was a halter, as if he had been only fresh cut down from the gibbet! Then my Uncle Ben did start back a pace or two, when the other let fly at him with a pretty considerable hard blow, and so laid him 'right slick sprawling along upon the ground. Uncle Ben said he never could guess how long they all laid there; but when they came to, they found themselves all stretched out like dead men by the niggers of the house, with a staved rum cask standing beside them. But now—mark you this well—on one of the head-boards of the barrel was wrote, 'W. K. The Vulture. 1701,' which was agreed by all to stand for William Kidd, the pirate. And July White, Uncle Ben's woolly-headed old nigger, said that he was once a loblolly-boy on board that very ship, when she was a sort of pickarooning privateer. Her crew told him that she sailed from the old country the very same year marked on the cask, when Kidd was hanged at Execution-Dock, and that they brought his body over to be near the treasure that he buried; and as every one knows that Kidd was tied up twice, why, perhaps, he never died at all, but was kept alive in that mighty elegant rum cask, till my Uncle Ben let him out again, to walk about New-York and Boston, round Charles Bay and Cape Cod, the Old Sow and Pigs, Hellegat, and the Hen and Chickens. There was a fat little Dutch parson, who used to think that this story was only a mighty smart fable, because nobody could remember seeing the pirate besides Uncle Ben; and he would sometimes say, too, that they were all knocked down by the rum, and not by the captain, though he never told Uncle Ben so, I calculate; for he always stuck to it handsomely, and wouldn't 'bate a word of it for nobody. When Uncle Ben had finished, he says,—'Jonathan W.' says he, 'I'll tell you what it is: I'll take it as a genuine favour if you'll pay Major Hickory for the sangaree and the toddy, and we'll be quits another day.' And so I paid for it every cent; but would you believe it? though I've asked him for it a matter of twenty times, and more than that, Uncle Ben never gave me back the trifle that he borrowed of me, from that day to this!"

Though we have said there is room for improvement, we must also add, there is room for praise. Next year the *Forget Me Not* is to "walk in silk attire," and we have no doubt it will merit its silk gown. As a variety, we give a *jeu d'esprit* written upon a print of a *Painter Puzzled* in the choice of a subject, from the pen of T. Hood.

'Draw, sir!—Old PLAY.

"Well, something must be done for May,
The time is drawing nigh,
To figure in the Catalogue,
And woo the public eye.

Something I must invent and paint;
But, oh! my wit is not
Like one of those kind substantives
That answer Who? and What?

Oh, for some happy hit! to throw
The gazer in a trance:
But *poor* *id*—there I am posed,
As people say in France.

In vain I sit and strive to think,
I find my head, alas!
Painfully empty, still, just like
A bottle—on the rack.

In vain I task my barren brain
Some new idea to catch,
And tease my hair—ideas are shy
Of 'coming to the scratch.'

In vain I stare upon the air,
No mental visions dawn;
A blank my canvass still remains,
And worse—a blank undrawn:

An 'aching void' that mars my rest
With one eternal hint,
For, like the little goblin page,
It still keeps crying 'Tint!'

But what to tint? Ay, there's the rub
That plagues me all the while,
As, Selkirk like, I sit without
A subject for my ile.

'Invention's seventh heaven' the bard
Has written—but my case
Persuades me that the creature dwells
In quite another place.

Sniffing the lamp, the ancients thought
Demosthenes *must* toil;
But works of art are works indeed,
And always 'smell of oil.'

Yet painting pictures some folks think
Is merely play and fun:
That what is on an easel set
Must easily be done.

But, rounds! if they could sit in this
Uneasy easy-chair,
They'd very soon be glad enough
To cut the canvas's hair!

Oh! who can tell the pang it is
To sit as I this day,
With all my canvasses spread, and yet
Without an inch of way?

Till, mad at last to find I am
Amongst such empty skulkers,
I feel that I could strike myself—
But no—I'll 'strike my colours,'"

An Introduction to the Natural System of Botany; or, a Systematic View of the Organisation, Natural Affinities, and Geographical Distribution, of the whole Vegetable Kingdom. By John Lindley, F.R.S., &c. 8vo. pp. 374. London, 1830. Longman and Co.

BOTANISTS have long felt the various anomalies and difficulties which constantly present themselves in almost every department of the science, from studying the structure, character, and habitudes, of plants, according to the artificial system of Linnaeus. That great man undoubtedly achieved a wonderful improvement in the study of natural history, by the establishment of that beautiful system which has gone by the name of the Sexual Classification of Plants; for all the knowledge that existed at the commencement of the last century respecting the anatomy and physiology of plants was a mere mass of chaos, in comparison with the profound arrangement proposed by the great Swedish naturalist.

Yet, like all general systems erected upon artificial data, the beautiful system of Linnaeus has not been able to withstand the test of modern physiological investigation. The structure of plants, coupled with their external characters and medical properties, has been found so much more eligible a mode of classification than that of depending almost entirely on the organs of fructification, that the day is probably not far distant when the natural system proposed by the eminent French naturalist, Jussieu, will have entirely superseded the artificial classification of the father of the science.

In the introduction Mr. Lindley observes, that "the organs of fructification are only entitled to a superior degree of consideration when found by experience to be less liable to variation than those of vegetation." Now, as the result of successive observation, by all the distinguished botanists of the day, serves to shew that there are infinitely greater exceptions and variations in the several parts of plants subservient to propagation, than in those parts of a plant which may be called its *primitive* structure, and which constitutes 9-10ths of the mass through-

out the whole vegetable kingdom; there is every argument why we should adopt the more rational system, recommended in the very able work before us, of classing plants under the two general heads of *vascular* (or flowering plants), and *cellular* (or flowerless plants), instead of the *sexual* and *asexual* classification. But the grounds on which Mr. Lindley recommends the adoption of the natural in lieu of the artificial system we prefer giving in his own words:—

"The principle upon which I understand the Natural System of Botany to be founded is, that the affinities of plants may be determined by a consideration of all the points of resemblance between their various parts, properties, and qualities; and that thence an arrangement may be deduced in which those species will be placed next each other which have the greatest degree of relationship; and that, consequently, the quality or structure of an imperfectly known plant may be determined by those of another which is well known. Hence arises its superiority over arbitrary or artificial systems, such as that of Linnaeus, in which there is no combination of ideas, but which are mere collections of isolated facts, not having any distinct relation to each other. This is the only intelligible meaning that can be attached to the term Natural System, of which Nature herself, who creates species only, knows nothing."

This is undoubtedly the more correct view of the subject; and we only regret that Mr. Lindley has deemed it necessary, in order to obtain the approbation of the more cultivated botanist, to express himself throughout the greater part of the work in language far beyond the comprehension of the junior class of readers. Indeed, the author has committed a palpable discordance between his title-page and his preface—for in the former he calls his work "an Introduction to the Natural System of Botany;" and at the end of his preface he says: "In conclusion, the author has only to add, that this work must not be received as an Introduction to Botany. Those who would understand it must previously possess such an elementary acquaintance with the science as they may collect from his *Outline of the First Principles of Botany*, or some other work in which the modern views of vegetable organisation are explained." The work is therefore an Introduction, and no Introduction; but which we must leave the author to reconcile with his readers, while we point out the principal merit of the volume—its application to medical botany.

In the arrangement of the work Mr. Lindley gives the diagnosis, anomalies, essential character, affinities, geography, and medical properties, of each order and genera. To the dry botanical student the first five distinctions are no doubt valuable, as facilitating his course of study. But in our estimation, the comprehensive section which describes the properties and virtues of each plant in medicine, the arts, and domestic and rural economy, is by far the most valuable portion of the volume. Indeed, we are inclined to think the author is himself of the same opinion, both from having dedicated his volume to the Apothecaries' Company, and from the following remarks with regard to the substitution of the Jussieuan system instead of the Linnaean.

"The advantages of such a system (the natural), in applying botany to useful purposes, are immense, especially to medical men, with whose profession the science has always been identified. A knowledge of the properties of one plant is a guide to the practitioner, which enables him to substitute some other with con-

fidence, which is naturally allied to it; and physicians on foreign stations may direct their inquiries, not empirically, but upon fixed principles, into the qualities of the medicinal plants which nature has provided in every region for the alleviation of the maladies peculiar to it. To horticulturists it is not less important: the propagation or cultivation of one plant is usually applicable to all its kindred; the habits of one species in an order will be often those of the rest: many a gardener might have escaped the pain of a poisoned limb, had he been acquainted with the laws of affinity; and finally, the phenomena of *grafting*, which is one of the grand features of distinction between the animal and vegetable kingdoms, and the success of which is wholly controlled by ties of blood, can only be understood by the student of the natural system."

It cannot be denied, even by the advocate for the Linnaean arrangement, that the natural classification is infinitely better calculated to promote the study of medical botany, and horticulture; and under that view, we may safely recommend the present "Introduction" of Mr. Lindley as a most valuable treatise on a very important branch of science.

The Poetical Works of Henry Kirke White. Aldine Poets, Vol. VI. London, 1830. Pickering.

ANOTHER of these beautiful volumes: we doubt whether Dr. Faustus would recognise his own art in the perfection to which it is now brought. We anticipate that deserved success will carry this series through the whole circle of our *corpus poetarum* and that it may be celebrated in such an epigram as follows:

Of starving Genius we no more allow—
For British Bards are All-dine Poets now.

To only one point would we direct Mr. Pickering's attention: these are books made for use, as well as show; and the matter should bear some comparison at least with the manner. Some of the biographies are not what ought to be found in a work like this: they are industriously put together—but they want both judgment and originality. Collins was overlaid with extraneous matter (who cared for a reprint of Langhorne's tasteless criticism?); and in the present volume the last sheet is devoted to a set of laudatory poems, much in the old school of the eulogistic verses with which every poet thought it necessary to preface his work. In the life itself, too, what shall we say to instances like the following?—The common-place of "his mother's mind was thus abstracted from the grovelling cares of a butcher's shop." The subjoined phrase contradicts its own meaning:—"A constitutional deafness soon convinced him that he was not eligible for the duties of an advocate; and his thoughts became directed to the church, from the most conscientious motives?"—it reads as if deafness were a constitutional motive. Again:—"The history of an author's first book is interesting; and Kirke White's was attended with unusual incidents. A novice in literature always imagines that it is important his work should be dedicated to some person of rank; and the Countess of Derby was applied to, who declined, on the ground that she never accepted a compliment of that nature. He at length applied to the Duchess of Devonshire; and a letter, with the manuscript, was left at her house. The difficulty of obtaining access to her grace proved so great, that more than one letter to his brother was written on the subject, in which he indignantly says—'I am cured of patronage hunting; as for begging patronage,

I am tired to the soul of it, and shall give it up.' Permission was at length granted: the book came out towards the end of 1803; and a copy was transmitted to the duchess, of which no notice whatever was taken." Now what are the unusual incidents here?—a neglected dedication is no uncommon event. Or where is the truth of this assertion?—"His talents were so precocious, that they became a warning that he was not destined for a long sojourn here." As if early death were the necessary consequence of early genius. We hope our readers' own feelings will deny the ensuing remark: "Though it is extremely doubtful if he was capable of worldly happiness, there is a selfishness in our nature which makes us grieve when those who are likely to increase our wisdom and intellectual pleasures are hurried to the grave." This is carrying the doctrine of selfishness pretty far.

We have made no remarks on the work itself: we have no space for retrospective criticism; Kirke White's merits have now their assigned place: over-rated they certainly were; but he was a young man of undeniable genius, and whose early death added the interest of pity to that of approval.

The Journal of the Royal Institution of Great Britain. No. I. 8vo. pp. 204. London, 1830. Murray.

THE first No. of this new quarterly periodical, addressed to shew the progress of philosophical science and the useful arts, has just appeared, and contains a various and interesting selection of papers, both from home and foreign sources. Among the contributors we notice Mr. J. F. Daniell, Mr. T. A. Knight, Mr. J. Rennie (entomology), Mr. Faraday (chemistry, &c.), Mr. G. T. Burnett (botany), and Dr. Ure (chemistry); and the miscellaneous intelligence is collected from many publications devoted to similar objects. From the whole, we anticipate that the work will reflect credit on its conductors, and be beneficial to the scientific world; though we do not observe, among all the useful matter, any thing very striking in its *début*. The subjoined extracts will suffice to exemplify the Journal, and inform our readers.

In a paper by Mr. Knight, "on the means of giving a fine edge to razors,"—a subject of no ordinary interest to the bearded sex—he states the following to be a prodigious improvement upon the methods hitherto in use. The machinery consists (he tells us) "of a cylindrical bar of cast steel, three inches long without its handle, and about one-third of an inch in diameter. It is rendered as smooth as it can readily be made with sand, or, more properly, glass-paper, applied longitudinally; and it is then made perfectly hard. Before it is used it must be well cleaned, but not brightly polished, and its surface must be smeared over with a mixture of oil and the charcoal of wheat straw, which necessarily contains much siliceous earth in a very finely reduced state. I have sometimes used the charcoal of the leaves of the *Elymus arenarius*, and other marsh grasses; and some of these may probably afford a more active and (for some purposes) a better material; but upon this point I do not feel myself prepared to speak with decision. In setting a razor, it is my practice to bring its edge (which must not have been previously rounded by the operation of a strop) into contact with the surface of the bar at a greater or less, but always at a very acute angle, by raising the back of the razor more or less, proportionate to the strength which I wish to give

to the edge; and I move the razor in a succession of small circles from heel to point, and back again, without any more pressure than the weight of the blade gives, till my object is attained. If the razor have been properly ground and prepared, a very fine edge will be given in a few seconds; and it may be renewed again, during a very long period, wholly by the same means. I have had the same razor, by way of experiment, in constant use during more than two years and a half, and no visible portion of its metal has within that period been worn away, though the edge has remained as fine as I conceive possible; and I have never, at any one time, spent a quarter of a minute in setting it." If any of our bristly friends obtain the luxury of an easy shave by employing this simple process, we are sure they will thank us, and remember Mr. Knight with smooth and grateful feelings.

The remaining extracts are the most novel miscellanies which we can pick out.

"Manufacture of Charcoal.—A new process, recommended in the *Journal des Forêts*, for this purpose, is to fill all the interstices in the heap of wood to be charred with powdered charcoal. The product obtained is equal in every respect to cylinder charcoal; and, independent of its quality, the quantity obtained is very much greater than that obtained by the ordinary method. The charcoal used to fill the interstices is that left on the earth after a previous burning. The effect is produced by preventing much of the access of air which occurs in the ordinary method. The volume of charcoal is increased a tenth, and its weight a fifth."

"Potash obtained commercially from Felspar.—According to M. Fuchs, this important alkali may be extracted from minerals containing it, by the following method:—They are to be calcined with lime, then left for some time in contact with water, and the liquor filtered and evaporated. M. Fuchs says he has thus obtained from nineteen to twenty parts of potash from felspar, and from fifteen to sixteen from mica, per cent."

"Chlorine an Antidote to Hydrocyanic Acid.—MM. Persoz and Nonat have verified the favourable results which M. Simeon had obtained relative to the remedy which chlorine affords against prussic acid. They operated upon three dogs, upon the eyes of which a drop of prussic acid had been placed. Dividing the symptoms into three periods, namely, i. uneasiness, ii. tetanus, iii. interrupted respiration, they found that when chlorine was applied in the first period, the relief was immediate, the respiration became regular, vomitings and alvine discharges occurred, the animal gradually regained its strength, rose unsteadily, and in about half an hour was as lively as at first. Applied at the second period, the symptoms were arrested, but the restlessness continued awhile; and though respiration was less painful, the convulsive movements continued for ten minutes, then occurred vomitings, &c., as before, and at the end of an hour the animal was perfectly well. The two dogs thus treated being tried next day with the same quantity of prussic acid, but without chlorine, died in a few minutes. In the third case all the effects of the prussic acid were produced before the chlorine was applied; the respiration had ceased for twenty-five seconds, and the animal was rapidly perishing; but the chlorine not only recalled it to life, but ultimately restored it to full vigour: the full effect only occurred, however, after some hours. Ten days after, it was quite well, and the paralysis of the abdominal parts, which occurred in all, had in this case

entirely disappeared. After this, MM. Persoz and Nonat sought to ascertain whether the prussic acid, being absorbed into the vessels and tissues, the chlorine would follow and decompose it. Two dogs of equal strength were taken, the crural veins laid bare, and separated from the neighbouring parts, and especially the accompanying nervous fibres; then a drop of prussic acid was put upon each vessel. The effects were instantaneous; a few drops of chlorine (solution) were let fall on to one of the crural veins—the other animal was left alone. The first was as immediately recovered as it was injured—the second died directly. The first felt no inconvenience after some hours, except from the wound. Endeavours were then made to kill him, by putting prussic acid upon the eye and upon the crural vein of the opposite side; but the animal only felt temporary inconvenience and a few convulsive movements, and was very quickly at ease. Hence it appears, that the chlorine administered before-hand is taken into the circulation, and is then an effectual remedy against prussic acid. Trials made with the chlorides of lime and soda, in place of chlorine, shewed that they possessed no corresponding powers, being quite inert as antagonists to the hydrocyanic acid."

"On the Cure of Animal Poisons, and probably Hydrophobia, by the local Application of Common Salt. (Rev. J. Fischer).—The Rev. J. G. Fischer was formerly a missionary in South America, and is anxious to call the attention of the public to the probable utility of common salt as a remedy in cases of hydrophobia, if, at least, the opinion be correct, that what will cure the bites of venomous serpents will be efficacious in the former class of cases. He says, 'I actually and effectually cured all kinds of very painful and dangerous serpents' bites, after they had been inflicted for many hours; for immediately after I had applied my remedy, the pain subsided, and the patient calmed—which remedy was nothing else than common table salt; and I kept it on the place or wound, moistened with water, till all was healed, within several days, without ever any bad effect occurring afterwards. I, for my part, never had an opportunity to meet with a mad dog, or any person who was bitten by a mad dog; I cannot, therefore, speak from experience as to hydrophobia; but that I have cured serpents' bites always, without fail, I can declare in truth.' Mr. Fischer then quotes Dr. Urban's practice from Hufeland's German Medical Journal. He had six methods: but his most successful was to apply a thick pledget, soaked in any saline solution, to each wound, or to each place where the teeth had made a mark without breaking the skin, and retain them there by bandages. The best solution is of salt one ounce, or one ounce and a half, to a pound of plain water, and the wounds are to be kept constantly moistened with it. The lint is to be renewed and soaked twice a-day; the places wetted every two hours, and even washed by the patient, especially if any indications of relapse, as itching or pain, should manifest themselves. A case is then quoted from the Kent Herald, and Morning Herald of July 28, 1827, as follows: 'A friend of ours was some years since bitten by a dog, which a few hours afterwards died raving mad. Immediately upon receiving the bite, he rubbed salt for some time into the wound, and, in consequence, never experienced the least inconvenience from the bite, the saline qualities of the salt having evidently neutralised the venom, and prevented, in all pro-

ability, a melancholy death by hydrophobia.' That which induced Mr. Fischer to try the above remedy, in the case of serpents, was 'a page of the late Bishop Loskiell's (with whom I was personally acquainted), in his History of the Missions of the Moravian Church in North America, which says, as far as I recollect, that at least among some tribes they were not at all alarmed about the bites of serpents, having always in use such a sure remedy as salt for the cure of them—so much so, that they would suffer a bite for the sake of a glass of rum. It was this that induced me to try the cure of venomous bites with salt; and the trial has exceeded my expectations. P.S. The advice of killing all dogs is neither practicable nor necessary: apply salt to man and dog, the bitten and the biter, all will be most probably well, &c."

"Protraction of Vegetable Life in a dry State: Medico-Botanical Society.—Mr. Houlton produced a bulbous root which was discovered in the hand of an Egyptian mummy, in which it probably had remained for two thousand years. It germinated on exposure to the atmosphere; when placed in earth it grew with great rapidity."

English Prisoners in France. By the Rev. R. B. Wolfe. 8vo. pp. 168. London, 1830. Hatchard and Son.

WE do not very much admire the overstrained religious style of this publication: there is not *matériel* enough for a volume; and we confess we are rather more impressed with the good intentions of Mr. Wolfe,—who, we must say, appears to have done all in his power for the religious instruction and comfort of his fellow-sufferers,—than with any necessity for the work before us. We extract the following anecdote,—a curious struggle between care and generosity:—

"On the officers and crew of the *Minerve* being ordered to Epinal, a march of nearly five hundred miles, Captain Brenton, having endeavoured, without success, to procure money for his bills, tried to raise a small sum upon his watch. But, the watchmaker having offered what he considered quite inadequate to its value, he withdrew, and was standing at the door of the auberge, reflecting on his situation, when he was accosted by a person, who said he understood he wished to dispose of a watch. Concluding the applicant wished to take advantage of the distress of the prisoners, the captain answered rather abruptly, 'Yes, but you will not buy it.' 'That is more than you know,' rejoined the stranger; 'let me see the watch.' It was accordingly put into his hands, and the information given him, that the watch and seals had cost thirty-one guineas. 'C'est un prix bien fort,' said the Frenchman; 'and, if I were to purchase the watch, I would not give more than fifteen louis for it; but, as I should only keep it as a pledge for the payment of any money I might advance, I will give you twenty-five.' The captain began to have a more favourable opinion of his dealer; and, expressing his surprise at this novel mode of making a bargain, delivered to him the watch; and twenty-five louis were paid down, and a note given with the watch to Captain Brenton's agent in England, requesting him to redeem the watch by paying the money, and any additional expenses which might be incurred. The Frenchman went away, and the captain had scarcely time to communicate the information to his officers, when he was seen returning, and a general apprehension was felt that he had repented his bargain. But what was their surprise when he thus accosted the

captain: 'Monsieur, ma conscience me pique, je suis indigne de la caution qui m'a fait prendre un gage d'un brave officier essayant le sort de la guerre; reprennez votre montre, monsieur, et donnez moi votre billet d'échange pour l'argent.' This was, of course, gratefully acceded to. But the stranger soon returned a second time. 'Encore, monsieur, ma conscience me pique.' 'Comment! encore?' 'Yes, sir,' said he, 'I have been considering how I can best relieve it. I am a merchant of L'Orient, my name is Dubois; I am returning home; and having examined my purse, I find I have just twenty-five louis more than I shall want for my journey. Here,' continued he, destroying the first note, and putting the additional sum into the captain's hand, 'add these to the former, and give me a bill for the whole.'"

Commentaries on the Mining Ordinances of Spain. By Don Francisco Xavier de Gamboa. Translated from the original Spanish by R. Heathfield, Esq. Barrister at Law. 2 vols. 8vo. London, 1830. Longman and Co.

DON FRANCISCO XAVIER DE GAMBOA, whose celebrated work has lately been rendered available to the British public, was born of a distinguished family in the province of Guadalajara, in New Spain. His great talents and abilities, though continually exerted with honour to himself as an advocate in the courts of his native country, seem to have been more particularly directed to the examination of the laws of mining, the various scientific processes carried on at the mines, and the vast importance of the mineral riches embosomed in the mountainous regions of Mexico. In the course of events he was appointed to an official situation at the court of Madrid; and it was during his residence at that capital that he produced his celebrated Commentary. Warmly attached to his native country, and ardently desiring its welfare and prosperity, he had taken frequent opportunities, throughout the work, of pointing out such alterations and improvements as might tend to develop more largely the extensive resources of New Spain, and encourage that spirit of enterprise which had already achieved the covering of a once barbarous country with noble cities and numberless villages, smiling amid the universal luxuriance of its now cultivated valleys and prairies.

So much were his Commentaries admired and valued for the interesting information with which they are replete, that they received the warm approval of majesty; and, in fine, became a book of reference throughout all the Spanish colonies in America. Shortly afterwards, Gamboa was appointed to the high office of regent of the audience of Mexico, which post he filled with great credit and distinction till the period of his death.

In the work now before us an interesting account is given of the arrangements entered into between the crown and those individuals whose capital and time were devoted to the working and exploring of gold and silver mines, and many curious details regarding the rewards offered and the inducements held out to the aborigines of the country to reveal their important discoveries; for it appeared that the Indians were in the habit of concealing veins of silver and gold to prevent them from being worked, imagining, perhaps, that if discovered they would be taken from them.

Many of the clergy who passed over to New Spain shewing themselves to be more interested in the accumulation of gold and silver than in

the conversion of the Indians, various laws were passed in the reigns of Philip II. and Philip IV., in which it was directed that neither the monks nor the clergy should be allowed to employ themselves in working mines, it being considered indecorous and of bad example. In the other conquests and colonies of the Spaniards similar regulations were enforced, as appears from the following extract:

"The council of Lima prohibits curates and incumbents from working mines (amongst other lucrative occupations), under pain of excommunication, *ipso facto incurrenda*; forbidding other ecclesiastics from engaging in actual trade only; but the council of Mexico, setting forth that many curates and incumbents undertook the ministry in the Indies more from a lust of gain, and in the expectation of having the services of the Indians in agriculture or mining, than from a desire to guide and enlighten their minds, orders, that no secular or regular curate shall cultivate land within his jurisdiction, nor within the space of ten leagues around; not excepting even the land of his own patrimony or of the church, if he has an opportunity of letting it: but that if no person can be found willing to take such land on lease, then he may employ the Indians who are so disposed in cultivating it; but that no compulsion shall be used towards them, and that they shall be paid for their labour, and be kindly treated; and that if any such person as aforesaid shall act otherwise, the bishop shall deprive him, if he be a secular clergyman, of his benefice, and if a regular, of his cure, and shall suspend his right of electing, or being elected to any office."

A great deal of interesting information is given relative to the mines of quicksilver, and its consumption in the Americas, besides a singular sketch of the ancient riches and mines of Spain itself, with a theory explanatory of the causes which led to the impoverishment of that country, notwithstanding the great wealth and power of its colonies.

"In the history of the Maccabees, where the great power of the Romans is described, it is mentioned as one of their mighty acts in Spain, that they had made themselves masters of the rich ores of gold and silver. From no other country (according to Fray Juan de la Puente, who cites Solinus, Pliny, Lucius Florus, Strabo, Posidonius, Polybius, Aristotle, Diodorus Siculus, Herodotus, and other Greek and Latin authors) could so great an abundance of these rich ores be procured. He states, upon the authority of Strabo, that during a conflagration on the Pyrenees, streams of gold and silver flowed down their sides; that all the mountains and hills of Spain afford the materials for money; and that that country is an inexhaustible source of metallic ore; that Plutus, the god of riches, holds his habitation beneath its surface; and that the Carthaginians, on their landing there, found the basins and even the manglers made of silver. And he likewise asserts, quoting Aristotle, that upon the ancient Phœnicians navigating to Tartessus, the Spaniards gave them, in exchange for oil and other ordinary merchandise, more silver than the ships were capable of conveying; and that upon setting sail, they not only made their common utensils, but even their anchors, of silver. But of all the writers on this subject, Don Antonio Carrillo Lasso is the most deserving of attention, he having collected, with admirable erudition, many most remarkable and wonderful instances in reference to all the different provinces of Spain, and with the view of shewing, that as they

yielded in former times such immense riches, so might they in these times be rendered equally productive.

"Don Geronymo Ustariz, in his *Theorica y Practica de el Comercio y Mineria*, proves to demonstration, by reference to the circumstances of England, France, and Holland, that the debility and depopulation of Spain are not to be attributed to the attraction held out by the Indies, but to the importation of foreign goods, by means of which our money is drained from us, and our manufactures are annihilated, thus having the effect of a heavy tribute. And that hence it is that La Mancha, Guadalaxara, Cuenca, Soria, Valladolid, Salamanca, and other cities of Castille, the emigration from which to the Indies is in the smallest proportion, are the least populous parts of Spain; while Cantabria, Asturias, Navarre, the mountains of Burgos and Galicia, from which parts the departures for the Indies are more numerous, are the most populous districts; the condition of the inhabitants being, in fact, improved, and the cultivation of their land advanced, by the remittances they receive from their relations in the Indies."

After entering into various details relative to the proposed establishment of a general mining company, Gamboa proceeds to give a most minute and accurate account of the many extraordinary processes to which the miner has recourse for the recovery of the gold and silver from the ore. We regret that our limits do not permit us to make a few extracts of these curious and interesting operations, for the accuracy of which we ourselves can fully vouch, having had opportunities of witnessing in person the magnificent and splendid operations of the gold and silver mines of New Spain. We must beg to refer the reader to the work itself, where the experiments detailed in the various methods of reduction, by smelting and amalgamation, serve to develop the secrets of metallurgic philosophy, for their proficiency in which science the Mexican miners are justly celebrated.

The work contains much valuable information on the subject of private rights to mines—their regulation and management—the production of ores—the mode in which mines are taken possession of, and denounced when abandoned, &c. A detailed account is given, interspersed with many curious anecdotes and incidents relative to the carrying into execution of the various laws passed on the subject of subterranean communication in mines, and the removal of the rich pillars left in the progress of the work, as a support to the vault from which the ore has been removed.

The singular magnificence and beauty of those vast natural grottoes, which sometimes occur at great depths in mines, and of which we have been more than once delighted spectators, caused a deep impression, and at the same time a feeling of curiosity to fathom the origin of those strange vacuums formed in the earth's crust, many hundred yards below its surface. It is with pleasure we select the following description:—

"In some places, natural vaults of extraordinary beauty and extent are found, exceeding even one hundred *varas* in height and length. From their vaulted form, they are in themselves firm and strong by nature; and although fearful places to enter, yet their firmness is well known, and the miners work in them with security. They are found to contain ore, loose sand, or earth, which the miners gradually remove, leaving the vault, store, or depository, empty and hollow. And after removing the

whole of the contents, they frequently, upon breaking in further, discover other vaults, to which they are guided by indications derived from the colour of the ground, or from the echo returned on striking with a crow or bar, as if from a hollow place. This is the description given of the mines of Chiguagua, by Don Mathias de la Mota, and we have received information to the same effect from several persons of great experience in that district, particularly with regard to a work called San Augustin, in the mine of Aranzazu, belonging to the family of Trastuñá, which is an extremely firm and most beautiful vault, capable of containing the largest church in Madrid or Mexico. Such also is the case with regard to the mines of Zimapan, where, according to the account of persons who have had much experience in working them, similar vaults are found. These caverns being formed by nature, do not require pillars of support, and it would, indeed, be a difficult matter to set about forming them. But when the hills are artificially undermined and cut away, it is impossible that they should sustain their own weight, unless supported by strong and firm pillars."

The greatest attention was paid to the prohibition of removing pillars of rich ore, left as supports to the vaults:—

"And although it may seem hard, supposing the vein to become barren, to be disabled from cutting into the pillars or reservoirs, however rich in gold or silver, yet it would be still harder that the whole mine should be ruined by falling in, and that human life, the most precious gift of nature, should in consequence be put in jeopardy. Indeed, this is a point upon which no precaution should be dispensed with; and those who servilely give way to the eagerness of the miners, and authorise them to remove or weaken the pillars of support, act in opposition to the dictates of conscience, and to the true interests of the mine, and render themselves gravely responsible for their conduct. All which is shewn by Agricola in a very few words."

In another part of this valuable work, the privileges of the miner are spoken of, and some of the causes pointed out which have led to their frequent embarrassments and ruin. The propensity to thieving which exists among the Indian miners is descanted upon, in terms which shew Gamboa to have been well aware of their pilfering habits,—a circumstance of which we recollect many curious instances.

"They steal the iron picks and crows; they steal the candles; they steal the ore, by means of various very subtle and dexterous contrivances and stratagems; and they steal the silver from the smelting works, and from the vats and washing places in the amalgamation works, with no less dexterity, under the very eyes of the overseers. Upon one occasion, in the reduction works of the Marquis de Valle-Ameno, in the mining district of el Monte, the amalgamator being present, and the workmen shut in, several ingots of silver disappeared from the room; and on the circumstance being investigated, it was found that they had fastened a string to the ingots, which being carried out by the gutter, through the force of the water, the party posted outside for the purpose was enabled to drag away the silver. They steal clothes and money from each other; and if they contrive to elude the searcher at the mouth of the mine, they will afterwards boast, in his presence, of the thefts they have committed. They steal the rich ore, by throwing it amongst the rubbish, as if it were mere refuse; afterwards recovering it at

their convenience. In a word, they conjugate the verb *rapio* in all its moods, to the confusion of the unfortunate miner, already sufficiently troubled by being thwarted by his supplier, and oppressed by a load of debt. Miners of a discreet and Christian spirit, generally proclaim a pardon for all thefts every Lent, to exempt their workmen from the liability to restore the property stolen, these people being in general, from their prodigality and recklessness, destitute of the means of making satisfaction, even independent of the pardon thus granted."

As a proof that Mr. Heathfield's translation is not confined solely to the dry details and laws connected with mining operations, we give the following extracts relative to the employment of numbers of the lower classes in the city of Mexico:—

"No court or city contains so many servants of servants, or deputy servants, as Mexico, where it is the practice of the domestic servants to transfer their burdens to a variety of others, and thus to pass their time in amusements and idleness. There is a set of persons whose business is that of making cigars, which it is the custom of all ranks and sexes to smoke—an easy and lucrative employment, which it would be much more proper to make over to poor women, who might employ themselves in this way, putting aside their distaff or spindle, by which means such unfortunate persons might procure something additional to make their lives easy, and compensate for the little esteem in which their needle-work and other labours are held. The host of idlers employed in this way is very considerable, and was raised up within the space of about twenty years; for in the year 1720 the plan of selling cigars ready made had not been devised, and in the year 1740 very great numbers were engaged in the business, but who would have been much better occupied, if, instead of dealing in smoke, they had been employed with a pick and gad in giving ventilation to the works of the mines."

The next passage shews the wide contrast which exists between the sober, frugal labourers in our metallic mines of Cornwall and in the collieries of Northumberland, and the half-civilised race who are employed in the mines of Mexico and Peru; while it affords the best possible commentary on the blessings of free institutions in promoting national industry and social improvement.

"The miner's chief enemy is the miner himself. He is, generally speaking, prodigal, unlimited in his indulgence in expensive luxuries and superfluities, and even in his vices. The workmen drink, game, and lavish, all they get; and they have no notion of economy, but are all for the present moment. They often, in the height of their folly, attire themselves in rich cloth or fine cambric, and then go down into the mine, where their holiday dress generally serves for wadding, or to ease the blow of the pick. If this be the character of the workmen, what may not some of the masters be expected to be? The fault is not in the profession, but its professors; and the greater their prodigality, the more they are to be pitied. It is a melancholy thing to see a man reduced on a sudden to the wretched condition of an Iru, who was previously rich as a Cæsar; of which melancholy reverse a multitude of instances might be cited among the once respectable Mexican miners."

We have been much pleased with this well-translated work; and the more so, as, from having consulted the best authorities, visitors of the scenes described, and witnesses of the effects of the laws commented upon, we are

satisfied of the correctness of its details, and the general information with which it abounds.

As a work of legal and scientific reference for individuals connected in any manner with the mining speculations of the day, or interested generally in mining and metallurgical pursuits, we think it invaluable.*

Pompeiana; or, Observations of the Topography, Edifices, and Ornaments of Pompeii. By Sir William Gell, F.R.S., F.S.A., &c. New Series, Part IV. Jennings and Chaplin.

A LARGE portion of this Part is occupied with a minute and learned description of the Thæmæ which were excavated at Pompeii in the year 1824; but as it would be impracticable, without the plates, to render that description intelligible to our readers, we will quote a curious episode, on the use of glass by the ancients. Speaking of a window which is placed close under the vault of the roof, in one chamber of the baths, Sir William Gell says:—

"It was not only formed of glass, but of good plate glass, slightly ground on one side, so as to prevent the curiosity of any person upon the roof. This glass was divided by cruciform bars of copper, and secured by what might be termed turning buttons of the same metal. Of this glass all the fragments remained at the excavation, a circumstance which appeared not a little curious to those who imagined that its use was either unknown, or very rare, among the ancients, and did not know that a window of the same kind had been found in the baths of the villa of Diomedes. Glass seems to have, at first, been brought from Egypt, and to have, in fact, received its name of *uallus* from the Coptic. Crystal, *κρυσταλλος*, or the permanent ice of the ancients, originally designated the natural stone itself. It is said to have been little known in Rome before 536 U.C., but this would give ample time for its use at Pompeii long before its destruction. There are few subjects on which the learned seem to have been so generally mistaken as that of the art of glass-making among the ancients, who seem to have been far more skillful than was at first imagined. Not to mention the description of a burning glass in the Nubes of Aristophanes, v. 764., the collection which Mr. Dodwell first formed and brought into notice at Rome, by repolishing the fragments, is sufficient to prove that specimens of every known marble, and of many not now existing in cabinets, as well as every sort of precious stone, were commonly and most successfully imitated by the ancients, who used these imitations in cups and vases of every size and shape. In the time of Martial, about a century after Christ, glass cups were common, except the *calices allasones*, which displayed changeable or prismatic colours, and, as Vossius says, were procured in Egypt, and were so rare, that Adrian, sending some to Servianus, ordered that they should only be used on great occasions. The myrrhine vases, however, which were in such request, seem at last to have been successfully traced to China. Propertius calls them Parthian; and it seems certain that the porcelain of the East was called *mirra* di

* In reviewing a work of this importance to those who have invested so large a capital in the mining enterprises of which it treats, we ought to notice another publication on the same subject, and full of interesting and important information: we allude to the *Quarterly Mining Review*, Nos. I. and II. (published by T. Booney and Simpkin and Marshall), which is not only replete with intelligence respecting the foreign mining associations, but also with various excellent details and remarks on every species of mining in the British dominions.

Smyrna to as late a date as 1555. The vast collection of bottles, glasses, and other utensils, discovered at Pompeii, is sufficient to shew that the ancients were well acquainted with the art of glass-blowing in all its branches; but it is not the less true that they sometimes used, much as we do, horn for lanterns, which Plautus terms *Vulcan* in a prison of horn; and that windows, and Cicero says lanterns, were sometimes made of linen instead of glass, as we see oiled paper in modern times. The common expressions for these objects in Latin appear to be *fenestrae volubiles, vel lineis velis, vel specularia vitratæ clausa*. In process of time glass became so much the fashion that whole chambers were lined with it. The remains of such a room were discovered in the year 1826, near Ficulnea, in the Roman territory; and these are hinted at in a passage of the Roman naturalist: *Non dubie vitreas fracturas camere, si prius id inventum fuisset*. In the time of Seneca the chambers in thermae had walls covered with glass and Thasian marble, the water issued from silver tubes, and the decorations were mirrors."

Various plates, some representing buildings, in Pompeii, others pictures on the walls of those buildings, illustrate the text. Of the latter, an outline, entitled "the Infant Achilles bathed in the Styx," possesses much grace and purity of design.

Ackermann's Juvenile Forget Me Not; a Christmas, New-year's, and Birth-day Present, for Youth of both Sexes. 1831. Edited by Frederic Shoberl. London.

We cannot but think our young friends ought to be very happy in the prospect before them: here is a little book with a beautiful outside and an entertaining inside—pretty pictures, pretty tales, and pretty poems. The contribution we like least of all, (though we cannot praise the lesson taught by Hogg's admirably told tale of the "Poacher"), is "Clara Evrington;" the history of a wilful girl, who neglects her French and Italian for music: the consequence is, that she is confined to singing English songs, and weeps at hearing her young friends sing the melodies of Mozart and Rossini. A bad spirit of display is here held up as the reward of useful acquirement, and the punishment of its neglect is merely mortified vanity. The simple morals, whether little acts of generosity or kindness—the fault bringing the early sorrow—and candid confession,—of the other tales, are far more deserving of praise; but it is a most difficult task to make up a miscellany really fit for the juvenile reader. There are two pretty poems by Mary Howitt; and we quote part of a lively beating-up for soldiers, by T. Hood.

"What little urchin is there never
Hath had that scold's angry frowns,
Of martial trappings caught?
Trappings well called—because they trap
And catch full many a country chap
To go where fields are fought!
What little urchin with a rag
Hath never made a little flag
(Our plate will shew the manner),
And wooed each tiny neighbour still,
Tommy or Harry, Dick or Will,
To come beneath the banner?
Just like that ancient shape of mist
In Hamlet, crying 'List, O list!
Come, who will serve the king,
And strike frog-eating Frenchmen dead
And cut off Boney's head?
And all that sort of thing.
So used I, when I was a boy,
To march with military toy,
And ape the soldier-life;
And with a whistle or a hum,
I thought myself a Duke of Drum
At least, or Earl of Fife.

With gun of tin and sword of lath,
Lord! how I walk'd in glory's path
With regimental mates,
By sound of trumpet and rub-a-dubs,
To 's eye the washhouse—charge the tubs—
Or storm the garden-gates!"

We should, perhaps, observe, that the *Juvenile Forget Me Not* is evidently meant only for the youngest class of readers. The chief writers are,—W. Howitt, Mr. Harrison, Dr. Booker, Miss Jewsbury, Mr. John Bird, Mrs. Hofland, Misses Jane, Susanna, and Agnes Strickland, the Ettrick Shepherd, Mr. T. Hood, and Mr. H. C. Deakin.

An Historical Atlas; in a Series of Maps of the World as known at different periods: constructed upon a uniform scale, and coloured according to the political changes of each period: accompanied by a Narrative of the leading events exhibited in the Maps: forming together a General View of Universal History, from the Creation to A.D. 1828. By Edward Quin, M.A. of Magdalen Hall, Oxford, and Barrister-at-law of the Hon. Soc. of Lincoln's Inn. The Maps engraved by Sidney Hall. Folio, pp. 93. London, 1830. L. B. Seeley and Sons.

THE ingenious and beautiful work before us is decidedly the best constructed railway for the rapid and easy communication of extensive and accurate historical knowledge, that we have met with, even in this age of improved mental as well as material machinery. Its distinguishing object—but that is so fully and perspicuously described in the preface, that we will not do Mr. Quin the injustice of using any other language than his own.

"The leading idea of the volume is that of presenting the known history of the world as a whole, instead of in fragments;—and as a consistent and uniform whole, instead of in parts, drawn after various proportions, and on differing or even opposite plans. What has been the common system, in the instruction of youth in this necessary part of human knowledge? A juvenile student has usually had put into his hands a History of Greece,—another of Rome,—perhaps one of England,—and sometimes a volume or two of universal history, which, from its compressed character, possesses little interest, and gains no possession of the mind. Possibly these narratives may even be accompanied by a few maps, each drawn upon a different scale, and relating to a different period. And after going over this short course, which it is to be feared comprises all that the greater number of schoolboys are introduced into,—what ideas of the history of the world is the scholar likely to have gained? Unless his mind should happen to be very peculiarly constituted, the respective dates of events, and the comparative extent of the countries contained in different maps, will have entirely escaped him. Or should he partially retain some of these points, they will yet be of little use in giving him a correct knowledge of the great outline of history. Has he the least idea, for instance, that at the very time when Alexander was weeping the want of a new world to conquer,—the Romans, whose conquest might have been less easy than that of another world of Persians, lay unheeded behind him, each being mutually ignorant or careless of the other's existence. Or does he know that the greatest empire yet obtained among men, was not that of Alexander or the Cæsars, but was the conquest of a wandering Tartar chief. In short, what general idea can he have gained of the bold and leading outlines of history, when his attention has only been di-

rected to one or two minute spots on the earth's surface, and to them only during a particular series of years. It is not wished to undervalue or discountenance the placing before youth, more especially the splendid and animating stories of ancient Greece and Rome. But at the same time let it be conceded, that these interesting passages of history are but fragments, and that if the pupil's attention is wholly or principally occupied with them, he is likely to gain only a very imperfect or erroneous idea of universal history. The plan now adopted seems to the editors to be that best suited to the object; which is, the affording a complete and just, although rapid and condensed, view of all the great political changes in human society. It consists of a succession of maps exhibiting the state of the known world at more than twenty periods. Its peculiarity consists in exhibiting every thing in its real dimensions and just proportions, and in adhering to the same scale in all successive delineations. Greece and Persia are seen, for instance, in the relations which they actually bore to each other; and are not shewn, as in many atlases,—the one on a scale of twenty miles to an inch, the other on a scale of 200:—And when once laid down, they remain, in each subsequent map, on the same spot and of the same dimensions. By rapidly passing the eye, therefore, over the engravings, the student, always finding the same territory in the same part of the map, sees, by the changes of colour, the various empires which succeed each other. Like the watchman on some beacon-tower, he views the hills and peopled valleys around him, always the same in situation and in form, but under every changing aspect of the hours and the seasons; now basking in the meridian sunshine, then sinking into the gloom of even, and again emerging into the light of returning day. In thus exhibiting the state of the world at different periods, it became necessary, in order to preserve consistency and truth, to exhibit, in the earlier stages of the review, only a very small portion of the earth's surface. The reason of this is obvious. A map entitled '*The World as known to the Ancients*,' is found in most existing atlases, and our readers must often have met with such an one. Now our plan was to exhibit the 'world as known to the ancients,' not of one period, but of several successive periods. We had to shew the world as known in the days of Moses;—the world as known to Cyrus;—to Alexander, &c. And to do this with truth, it was necessary to shew, at each period, only that part of the world which there is reason to believe was actually known to the geographers and statesmen of that time. Still, however, in doing this, we were not to forget that the real facts of the earth's geography were the same at each of these periods as at present, and that China and America were as much in existence in the days of Cyrus as they are now, although unknown to the great mass of civilised human beings. We were not, then, to omit these countries from our maps, as though they had no existence, and yet we were not to exhibit them, as if forming part of the known world of the age so delineated. The only course left to us seemed to be to bring the appearance of a cloud over the skirts of every map, exhibiting at each period only the known parts of the globe, and lifting up or drawing off this cloud as the limits of the known world gradually extended. Every successive map thus combines, at a single glance, both the geography and the history of the age to which it refers; exhibiting, by its extent,

the boundaries of the known world; and by its colours, the respective empires into which that world was distributed. Another point must be briefly mentioned. There have always been, in every age of the world, parts of the earth, not unknown to the geographer or the historian, but classed, by their want of civilisation, of regular government, and of known and recognised limits, under the general description of barbarous countries. Such was Scythia through all antiquity, and such is the interior of Africa at the present moment. Now, in distinguishing the successive kingdoms of the earth in our maps by appropriate colours, it was obviously impossible to assign any distinguishing tints to tracts like these. The colours we have used being generally meant to point out and distinguish one state or empire from another, and to show their respective limits and extent of dominion, were obviously inapplicable to deserts peopled by tribes having no settled form of government, or political existence, or known territorial limits. These tracts of country, therefore, we have covered alike in all the periods, with a flat olive shading; which the eye of the student will soon observe on the skirts of all the maps, and which designates, throughout the work, those barbarous and uncivilised countries to which we have adverted."

The maps are twenty-one in number; and nothing can be more interesting and amusing than to turn them over, one after the other, and observe the gradual advance of civilisation; from the Rembrandtish effect of the first, in which Eden is the only bright spot amidst a mass of deep shadow, to the Rubens-like diffusion of light, and of gay colours, by which the world in its present state is represented. The descriptions contain a condensed, but perfectly intelligible, and, as far as our inspection allows us to judge, correct narrative of all the great contemporaneous events of history. Whoever reads them attentively, assisting his comprehension, and insuring his remembrance, by an examination of the accompanying maps, will acquire a knowledge of general history possessed by few, and will be admirably qualified to prosecute with advantage more minute inquiries into the history of any country, or epoch, which may have peculiar claims on his curiosity.

The Waverley Novels, Vol. XVII. Ivanhoe, Vol. II. Edinburgh, 1830, Cadell; London, Whittaker.

THIS continuation of the Waverley series requires no comment, as it has not needed any of the author's new literary illustrations. *Ivanhoe*, as he stood, is still one of Sir Walter's noblest productions. We are obliged to hint to our friends in the North, that the critics in the South are raising their voices (in spite of all explanations given) against the mediocrity of some of the embellishments. Both the frontispiece and vignette in this volume are poor.

Tales of the Dead; and other Poems. By John Henegave Jesse, Esq., Author of "Mary Queen of Scots." 12mo. pp. 126. London, 1830. Murray.

A PRETTY little volume—the memory of scenes and tales in an Italian tour, pleasantly embalmed in verse. We quote the following fair portrait of an Italian:—

"Yet was there one, whose loftier mien
But seldom in those bowers was seen;
The scion of a time-worn race,
Though deck'd with every maiden grace;
A form whose fairy footsteps fell
As light as those of the gossamer;

An eye whose every glance confest
The free emotions of her breast:
A face in which were traits of love;
That seemed as they were fix'd above;
And yet, when of each gossamer look
A nearer view the gazer took,
It seemed as if a lover's sigh
Might draw a portion from the sky.
That face—I can recall it yet,
So deeply in my mind 'tis set;
'Twas not that bright unchanging hue
That dazzles while it charms the view;
The long, distinct, and glittering light
That woo'd us on a summer night;
Hers was that beauty, more refin'd,
That steals, like twilight, on the mind,
So soft, so tender, and serene,
That none forget who once have seen;
And stern were he who could defy
The witchery of her pensive eye.

Le Petit Secrétaire Parisien; or, the Art of reading Easy and Familiar English Letters in French at sight. By Louis Fenwick de Porquet. Lond. 1830. Simpkin and Marshall.

WE take this opportunity of recommending M. de Porquet's works generally: founded on simple and obvious principles, adapted to childish capacities, they are excellently calculated to advance the young French or Italian scholar. This remark applies not only to the above volume, but to M. Porquet's *Trésor de l'Ecolier Français; or, the Art of Translating English into French at sight*; which, as well as the other, has been proven by reaching a third edition.

The Adventures of a Griffin. 2 vols. 12mo. Edinburgh, 1830. J. Kay.

A WEAK yet coarse copy of the faults in our older novelists. The title too is a misnomer: the adventure of an Indian cadet might be both amusing and useful; but two-thirds of these volumes are filled by a silly story of the bygone fashion, of a village maid, whose virtue triumphs over every temptation, of course. The dénouement is rather original: the Maria is delivered from her persecutor's power, by his being carried off by an inflammation in the bowels. There is a wire-drawn account of his voyage, whose only incident is, that the meaness which refuses the customary donation to the sailors, subjects the author to the discipline of shaving on passing the line. A silly practical joke; a story worthy of the days of the most elderly magazines; the usual Indian scene of a widow burning herself with her husband's body; some weak enough conversation—and the book closes. We will not prognosticate what a young author may arrive at; but these pages certainly give no promise of future excellence.

Anthologie Française; or, Specimens of the Poetry of the Augustan Age of France, and of the Eighteenth and present Century; with Notes and Illustrations. Pp. 290. London, 1830. Treuttel, Würtz, and Co.; Souter; Hatchard and Son; Jarrold and Son.

A VOLUME of this kind was much wanted; it is especially useful to young people. Few things advance a learner more in the accent of a language, than reading poetry aloud, if the ear be only tolerable, as the harmony of the verse shows in itself what pronunciation is requisite to give the rhyme. In the selections before us, there is more judgment than taste: by this we mean, there is not a piece that is not perfectly unexceptionable; yet it will be less delightful in the library, than useful as a class-book. But English taste and French poetry are, we own, opposites difficult to reconcile.

Lyées; ou, Analyse critique des Chefs d'Œuvre Littéraires des Dix-septième et Dix-huitième Siècles; augmenté des Notes. Par E. C. Mansart. Pp. 162. London, 1830. Longman and Co.

THIS volume will make a most excellent companion to that of French poetry mentioned above; clear, condensed, and simple, these biographies and criticisms will give the young reader a fair and general idea of the progress of, and principal writers in, French literature.

The French Revolution of 1830. A comic Poem. By F. W. N. Bayley, Esq. with Portraits of Louis Philippe I., La Fayette, and Polignac. London, 1830. A. Miller.

THE French Revolution is no joke, whatever Mr. Bayley may say. There are plenty of puns after the T. Hood fashion; but who can follow in his path? We read that

Polignac had not the knack
Of managing the poll;

so that things went from bad to worse, of which we have here a rhyming account, with lithographies of three of the principal actors.

Albert; or, the Lord's Prayer exemplified, &c. London, 1830. A. Seguin.

THIS is a little book for little people; a Swiss tale put into verse, so as to introduce all the petitions in the Lord's prayer; which are illustrated by seven wood-cuts, from designs by J. M. Usteri.

Publii Virgilii Maronis Opera, Notis ex Editione Heymanæ excerptis illustrata; accedit Index Maittairianus. 8vo. pp. circo. 700. Londini, Gulielmus Pickering.

AN excellent, complete, and cheap, edition of Virgil, equally eligible for the school-room and library.

Steamers v. Stages; or, Andrew and his Spouse. London, 1830. W. Kidd.

ONE of the now rather too prolific class of little books, with humorous, or would-be humorous wood-cuts: the poetry, if we may so call some meaningless doggerel, is very poor, and the cuts, though well cut, do not possess much that is either original or entertaining to recommend them.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

MAJOR LAING'S MSS.

By the Musquito brig, which arrived at Portsmouth on Saturday last from Tripoli, a report is brought which strongly corroborates the suspicion expressed in the *Literary Gazette*, that it was in great measure from the papers of the murdered Major Laing that Caillie's narrative of African travels was concocted.

LANDER'S TRAVELS.

THE *Hampshire Telegraph* states that the 23d of March was the date of the Landers' disembarking at Badagry; and adds to the intelligence given in our letter from Mr. Fisher, (*L. G.* No. 714) that the travellers had passed safely through the Badagry dominions, in seven days, towards the interior. Their first purpose was understood to be, the delivery of presents to the King of Youri, in whose possession Mungo Park's papers are supposed to be; and after, if possible, obtaining these, to penetrate to Lake Tchad, and survey its whole coast. The first part of this route is very nearly that of Clapperton in 1826; the second portion goes more into regions traversed on preceding occa-

sions by Clapperton 1826, by Clapperton, Denham, and Oudeney, and by Lander himself.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE result of Captain Sturt's expedition to trace the course of the Murrumbidgee is thus stated in the *Sydney Monitor*. Capt. S., with his party, crossed the country in twenty-one days from Sydney, and embarked on the river, down which they proceeded seven days, when they entered a new river, running from east to west, which they named the Murray, and into which the Murrumbidgee flows. In a few days more they reached another river, forming a junction with the Murray, and examined its banks about five miles up. The next stream that fell into the Murray flowed from the south east, and was denominated the Lindsay. Lower down still, the expedition having been a month afloat, the Murray was found to enter and form a lake of from fifty to sixty miles in length, and from thirty to forty in breadth. This lake, called Alexandrina, lies immediately to the eastward of Gulf St. Vincent, and extends southward to the shore of Encounter Bay. There has thus been ascertained to exist considerable facilities for interior communications by water from the north of Harris to the southern coast in this country. The river, so surveyed, is reported, however, to be very shallow where it enters the sea, and only fit for boat navigation.

SURVEY OF THE COAST OF AFRICA.

ANOTHER expedition will shortly sail from Portsmouth to complete the survey of the western coast of Africa, which the unfortunate termination of that under the late Captain Boteler left unfinished. The command is intrusted to Captain Belcher, a scientific officer who served with Captain Beechey in exploring the shores of the Pacific. His majesty's sloop *Etna* has been appropriated for this service, and more than usual attention and liberality have been bestowed upon all her equipments. Her commander and officers have been selected by the Lords of the Admiralty in consequence of their superior attainments; and every measure has been taken on the part of Government to render this arduous expedition effective.

The *Etna* will proceed in the first instance to Sierra Leone, and thence to survey various parts of the Gold Coast, and to ascertain the meridian distances of different points which are necessary for the completion of the charts of that neighbourhood.

THE LATE LUNAR ECLIPSE.

WE regret that we cannot insert the whole of the communication from our correspondent P., who writes from South Wales, where he observed the late lunar eclipse: though avowedly "no astronomer," he has sufficient enthusiasm for one, and talent for relating what he had an opportunity of observing. The following is the substance of his letter. He describes the moon when totally immersed in the earth's shadow as appearing of "a deep coppery, or blood red colour, the sky at the time being perfectly clear, and the stars, even those near the moon, twinkling with exceeding brilliancy; this ruddy appearance of the moon seemed not in the intervening atmosphere, but in the very substance of the moon itself. After this coppery colour had continued for some time without much variation, a still greater degree of darkness appeared on the eastern side, which gradually increased, as if it would spread itself over the whole surface of the moon; this at length proved to be only a

dark patch or deeper degree of shadow, which slowly passed over the moon's disc to the western side."

The following paragraph confirms the statement of the appearance of the moon, as described in the *Lit. Gaz.* (Nos. 711 and 712). "When this total obscuration had continued upwards of an hour, the eastern limb became perceptibly more bright, and this luminous appearance gradually extended itself towards the middle of the moon's disc, the eastern edge proportionably increasing in brightness for at least twenty minutes. I can easily imagine that if the moon were seen at this time through clouds, or a hazy atmosphere, this bright appearance of the eastern side might be mistaken for the light of the clear moon, though it would in reality bear no comparison with its brightness when disencumbered of the earth's shadow."

"When the moon's edge had been a few minutes clear of the shadow, it formed one of the most beautiful objects I ever beheld: there was the greatest part of the moon's disc still involved in the coppery shadow, the eastern margin was already bright and clear, and in front of that there was a brilliant capping formed by the penumbra, perfectly distinct from the moon's disc, yet so near, as to give it an elongated appearance towards the east, much resembling the figure of a bright eyeball, with its iris projecting and increasing in brilliancy every moment."

"I do not know how this would have appeared through a telescope, having none by me, and if I had, I should not have made use of it. I would by no means exchange the glorious and splendid scene I now enjoyed for the tame and deadened effect produced by the qualifying medium of a telescope. In a few minutes the distinction of the two lines became more confused, until at last the moon resumed its roundness, and the shadow progressed towards the west. When about one-third of the moon's disc had become clear, the penumbra might be seen forming a bluish-coloured border with slight prismatic tints around the red shadow, and separating it from the light part, till at length it disappeared entirely—not a cloud having appeared above the horizon after the first clearing up."

From the observations made during this eclipse, our correspondent infers, "that the earth's shadow had three degrees of intensity: first, the penumbra or outer prismatic fringe; then the coppery shadow, or general obscurity; and, lastly, the dark nucleus, or centre of the shadow, which passed as a dark patch over the moon's surface."

We are inclined to think, that the "minute but brilliant point of light," which our correspondent P. suspected he saw north of the moon's centre, during the total obscuration, must have been an illusion of the sight;—appearances such as he describes have been seen with the telescope, but never, we believe, with the naked eye. During the annular eclipse of 24th June, 1778, a bright white spot was observed near the north-west limb, which continued visible a minute and a quarter. A luminous point has also been observed near Heracles, which resembled a small nebula, or star of the sixth magnitude. In 1794 a very brilliant spot was seen on the obscure part of the moon, which continued visible for five minutes. A luminous appearance was also observed on the dark part of the moon in May, 1821. Herschel has discovered volcanos in the moon, emitting fire, similar to those on the earth: one of these as late as the year 1826 was

observed to be apparently burning with great activity.

Occultations of Stars in the Hyades.—The occultation of γ Tauri (Tuesday evening last, 5th day) was invisible, from the intervention of clouds. After midnight, the sky became as favourable as could be desired: the following were the observations:—

		H.	M.	S.
71 Tauri....	Immersion.....	13	9	38
	Emergence.....	14	0	19
δ^1 Tauri....	Immersion.....	14	16	28
δ^2 Tauri....	Immersion.....	14	17	59

These latter stars (1, 2 & δ^1 Tauri) appeared to cling to the lunar disc, at immersion. The sky became overcast at 14^h 45^m, and continued unfavourable till 15^h 36^m, when δ^1 and δ^2 Tauri were observed clear of the Moon.

The appulse of Aldebaran was not seen; a gray mist completely covered the hemisphere at the time.

Deptford. J. T. B.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

A Demonstration of the Nerves of the Human Body. By Joseph Swan. Part I. Longman and Co.

THE first part of a work (which is to consist of other three similar fasciculi), and certainly one of the most accurate and superb specimens of anatomical illustration which we ever saw. The plates are on a large scale, and of the most perfect character, either as regards the medical or the engraver's art. Mr. Swan, in 1825 and 1826, carried off the collegial anatomical prizes given by the Royal College of Surgeons; by, 1. A minute dissection of the nerves of the medulla spinalis, &c.; and 2. A like dissection of the cerebral nerves. The vast importance of these subjects in the consideration, not only of the nervous system, but of medicine in its general bearings, renders the present publication peculiarly acceptable: and we have to recommend it as one of infinite value to the profession, as well as a splendid production in all that relates to pictorial demonstration. There are eight plates, which completely exhibit the cervical and thoracic portions of the sympathetic nerve, and the nerves of the heart and lungs; with references and explanations.

GERMAN NATURALISTS.

THE fourth and last public meeting of this body for the present year took place at Ham-burgh, on the 25th of September; when Professor Fischer, of St. Petersburg, read an account of the botanical garden of that place. A very uncalled-for remark was made by a member on the election of Mr. Gray, of London, to preside over one of the sectional meetings: this man of science objected to a foreigner, forsooth, as if science belonged to a particular country. The observation seems to have been deservedly scouted by the assembly. Some discussion took place on the expression of a wish that the eminent naturalist, Dr. Wallich, should be enabled to prolong his stay in London to finish his *Indian Flora*—certainly a most desirable object.

FINE ARTS.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

National Portrait Gallery of Illustrious and Eminent Personages of the Nineteenth Century. With Memoirs, by William Jerdan, Esq. No. XVIII. Fisher, Son, and Co. VISCOUNT MELVILLE, Mr. Abernethy, and Viscount Clifden, are the three subjects of the eighteenth number of the Gallery; the first

two from pictures by Lawrence, the last from a picture by Hayter. They are all striking likenesses, and are engraved in a style worthy of their predecessors. The following anecdotes of Mr. Abernethy will, we think, amuse our readers:—

"Mr. T.—, a young gentleman with a broken limb, which refused to heal long after the fracture, went to consult Mr. Abernethy; and, as usual, was entering into all the details of his complaint, when he was thus stopped almost in *limine*—'Pray, sir, do you come here to talk, or to hear me? If you want my advice, it is so and so—I wish you good morning.' A scene of greater length, and still greater interest and entertainment, took place between our eminent surgeon and the famous John Philpot Curran. Mr. Curran, it seems, being personally unknown to him, had visited Mr. Abernethy several times, without having had an opportunity of fully explaining (as he thought) the nature of his malady: at last, determined to have a hearing, when interrupted in his story, he fixed his dark bright eye on the 'doctor,' and said—'Mr. Abernethy, I have been here on eight different days, and I have paid you eight different guineas; but you have never yet listened to the symptoms of my complaint. I am resolved, sir, not to leave this room till you satisfy me by doing so.' Struck by his manner, Mr. Abernethy threw himself back in his chair, and assuming the posture of a most indefatigable listener, exclaimed, in a tone of half surprise, half humour, 'Oh, very well, sir, I am ready to hear you out. Go on, give me the whole—your birth, parentage, and education. I wait your pleasure; go on.' Upon which, Curran, not a whit disconcerted, gravely began:—'My name is John Philpot Curran. My parents were poor, but I believe honest people, of the province of Munster, where also I was born, being a native of Newmarket, county of Cork, in the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty. My father being employed to collect the rents of a Protestant gentleman of small fortune, in that neighbourhood, obtained my entrance into one of the Protestant Free-schools, where I obtained the first rudiments of my education. I was next enabled to enter Trinity College, Dublin, in the humble sphere of a *sizer*,'—and so he continued for several minutes, giving his astonished hearer a true, but irresistibly laughable account of his 'birth, parentage, and education,' as desired, till he came to his illness and sufferings, the detail of which was not again interrupted. It is hardly necessary to add, that Mr. Abernethy's attention to his gifted patient was, from that hour to the close of his life, assiduous, unremitting, and devoted." Again, "Mrs. I.— consulted him on a nervous disorder, the minutiae of which appeared to be so fantastical, that Mr. Abernethy interrupted their frivolous detail, by holding out his hand for the fee. A one-pound note and a shilling were placed in it; upon which he returned the latter to his fair patient, with the angry exclamation of, 'There, ma'am! go and buy a skipping-rope: that is all you want.' Mr. Abernethy's strong point in prescribing is generally addressed to the relief of the bowels, and to the lowering and regulation of diet and regimen. He is, consequently, much sought in dyspeptic disorders; and, it is stated, often refers to such or such a page in one of his books, where he has already given the remedy. The patients have only to buy the work, where they will find an exact description of their symptoms, and a recipe for their cure.

On one occasion, a lady, unsatisfied with this amount of information, persisted in extracting from Mr. A. what she might eat, and, after suffering from her volubility with considerable patience for awhile, he exclaimed to the repeated 'May I eat oysters, doctor? May I eat suppers?' 'I'll tell you what, ma'am, you may eat any thing but the poker and the bellows; for the one is too hard of digestion, and the other is full of wind.' The reported fashion of his courtship and marriage is also extremely characteristic. It is told, that while attending a lady for several weeks, he observed those admirable qualifications in her daughter, which he truly esteemed to be calculated to render the married state happy. Accordingly, on a Saturday, when taking leave of his patient, he addressed her to the following purport: 'You are now so well, that I need not see you after Monday next, when I shall come and pay you my farewell visit. But, in the mean time, I wish you and your daughter seriously to consider the proposal I am now about to make. It is abrupt and unceremonious, I am aware, but the excessive occupation of my time, by my professional duties, affords me no leisure to accomplish what I desire by the more ordinary course of attention and solicitation. My annual receipts amount to £—, and I can settle £— on my wife: my character is generally known to the public, so that you may readily ascertain what it is: I have seen in your daughter a tender and affectionate child, an assiduous and careful nurse, and a gentle and lady-like member of a family; such a person must be all that a husband could covet; and I offer my hand and fortune for her acceptance. On Monday, when I call, I shall expect your determination; for I really have not time for the routine of courtship.' In this humour, the lady was wooed and won: and, we believe we may add, the union has been felicitous in every respect."

Any one who has ever been engaged in the composition of contemporaneous biography, will bear testimony to the truth of the subjoined remarks:—

"We would say, frankly, that there is no kind of authorship so beset with impediments as contemporaneous biography. Many volumes have often to be consulted for a single date; which, obtained upon the highest authorities, the chance is, that as they have copied one from the other, through a long line of error, it may in the end be wrong. The same remark applies to circumstances; and we have been astonished to find, on seeking, as we invariably do where it is possible, undoubted confirmation of our data, that all who have preceded us have altogether mistaken or misrepresented even things apparently of the utmost notoriety. This applies to cases where there are former publications to refer us to as guides; but, in the majority of instances, the whole substance of our sketches is to be procured from oral testimony; and we need hardly dilate upon the patient industry and delicacy required, in order to steer a clear and faithful course through the conflicting elements thus brought into action. The very matters of which we, after mature examination and comparison, are most certain, are liable to be cavilled at by others who have received different accounts of the same story:—things either unknown to us, or unrelated, are considered to stamp our notice with imperfection; and, in short, the difference of opinions among our judges, precludes the possibility of our obtaining, as in by-gone lives, the general assent and approbation of our readers. Yet we do not put forth

this statement to disarm the justice of our friends; it is a simple explanation, for the purpose of setting our design and its execution upon a right footing."

THE ANNUALS.

"CHRISTMAS is coming," is, to our mind's ear, the distinct exclamation of the first ANNUAL, or indication of an Annual laid upon our table. Nor is it an unpleasant announcement. It undoubtedly suggests ideas of short days and long nights, of wind, and rain, and snow, and ice, of chilblains and catarrhs; but then it is redolent of turkeys, and chimes, of mince-pies, and burnt brandy; and presents to our imagination the blazing yule-log, the friendly party, the conundrum, the jest, the laugh, the song, the dance, the merry gambol, and the delicious forfeit; all best enjoyed when

"—dread winter spreads his latest glooms,
And reigns triumphant o'er the conquered year."

Such was the train of festive images produced by the sight of

Proofs of the Plates of Ackermann's Forget Me Not, for 1831.

Including the title, they are fourteen in number, and well sustain the high character of this, the fruitful parent of similar publications. We can spare only a few words to each of them.

Queen Esther. J. Martin del., E. Finden sculpt. The moment chosen is when King Ahasuerus, returning from the garden to the banquetting hall, finds Haman imploring the queen to intercede for his life. The scene is one of much magnificence, and exhibits all the massiness and extent of architecture, and all the splendour and decoration, for which Mr. Martin is so justly celebrated. Through a vista of columns appears the city, and the galleys is seen in the extreme distance,—the place where we should always wish to see it. —*An Italian Scene.* Barrett del., Freebairn sculpt. One of those classical and charming sunsets with which Mr. Barrett has so frequently delighted the public eye.—*The Sisters.* J. R. West pinxt., W. Finden sculpt. Full of grace and beauty, both in composition and in expression; although we much fear that the harmony which at present subsists between the ladies will not long continue. It is exquisitely engraved.—*The Boa Ghaut, Deccan, East Indies.* W. Westall, A.R.A., pinxt., E. Finden sculpt. A stupendous scene, in which even the elephant shrinks to the diminutive appearance of a mouse.—*The Noontide Retreat.* T. Phillips, R.A., pinxt., J. S. Agar sculpt. Every body must recollect in the exhibition at Somerset House, either last year or the year before, the admirable picture which Mr. Agar has here so happily transferred to steel. It was one of the chief attractions of the great room.—*The Japanese Palace, Dresden.* S. Prout del., J. Carter sculpt. As rich a little bit of Prout as we remember to have met with.—*The Disconsolate.* R. Corbould del., C. Rolls sculpt. Of all the spectacles by which the heart of man is affected, the distress of a lovely female is the most powerful. Mr. Corbould has imparted peculiar interest to this delineation of it. We long to approach the fair mourner, to fold up the letter on which she is gazing, and which has occasioned her grief, to take her hand, to seat ourselves by her side, and to assure her of our profound sympathy.—*The Cat's Paw.* E. Landseer, A.R.A., pinxt., R. Graves sculpt. Funny enough. How frequently do we behold a similar exhibition among human beings! witness the late French ministry.—*Lady*

Beaufort. P. Stephanoff pinxt., C. Marr sculpt. A sweet little whole-length portrait of this blue-stocking of former times, the mother of a race of kings.—*The Political Cobbler.* A. Chisholme pinxt., H. C. Shenton sculpt. Cobbett's gridiron on his table, and *Le Petit Corporal* in his hand, shew pretty clearly the nature of Strap's politics. We fear he is the type of too large a body in this country just now.—*The False One.* Miss L. Sharpe pinxt., J. Agar sculpt. Although we are very sorry for the deserted fair, we could have told her beforehand how it would be. It is evident in the villain's face, as well as that of the good-for-nothing creature who has seduced him. A word in the lady's ear,—"You are well rid of such a coxcomb."—*Benares.* W. Purser delt., J. Carter sculpt. The elegance of oriental architecture and the sparkle of oriental costume are here very pleasingly depicted.—*The Painter Puzzled.* J. Knight pinxt., H. C. Shenton sculpt. We think the engraver also must have been puzzled how to introduce so many objects into so small a space. He has succeeded very well, however; has given to each sufficient importance and distinctness, and yet has preserved a brilliant general effect.

We proceed to notice the younger brother of this adult work, which makes its public appearance under the title of

Proofs of the Plates of Ackermann's Juvenile Forget Me Not, for 1831.

With the title, a round dozen of subjects, happily selected for the amusement of our young friends: viz.

Juvenile Architect. S. A. Hart pinxt., H. Shenton sculpt. A veteran, eagerly reading a narrative of the peninsular war, while his grandson is constructing a house of cards, which his little sister, who is watching the progress of the edifice, will no doubt blow down the moment that it is completed.—*Preparing for the Race.* R. B. Davis pinxt., G. Sartain sculpt. And so near a thing, we dare say, it will be, that it would puzzle us to determine which of the competitors to back. There is evidently some betting going on, nevertheless.—*The Breakfast.* Sir W. Beechey pinxt., W. Chevalier sculpt. A sweet little group, with great depth and mellowness of effect.—*Who will serve the King?* R. Farrier pinxt., W. Chevalier sculpt. Mr. Farrier has here given us a new and spirited version of one of the chapters of his celebrated picture under the same name.—*Andernach.* S. Prout delt., E. Finden sculpt. Well known for the enormous timber-float annually constructed in its neighbourhood.—*The Infant Samuel.* J. Holmes pinxt., T. Woolnoth sculpt. There is something very affecting in infant supplication. Mr. Holmes has thrown strong expression into the eyes of his curly-headed little subject, and Mr. Woolnoth has given great roundness and elasticity to the flesh.—*Going to Market.* W. Shayer pinxt., W. Chevalier sculpt. Human and animal, there are six living creatures in this clever Gainsborough-like composition; and it would be difficult to say which of the six is the most happy.—*Cottage Door.* W. Hunt pinxt., A. Fox sculpt. Mr. Fox has been very successful in expressing the peculiar character of Mr. Hunt's execution.—*Juvenile Masquerade.* C. Landseer delt., H. Rolls sculpt. A perfect Terburg, in miniature.

Illustrations of the Winter's Wreath, for 1831. London, Whittaker, Treacher, and Co.; Liverpool, George Smith.

This is, in our opinion, decidedly the best set

of plates by which *The Winter's Wreath* has been embellished since its commencement. We take them in the order in which they follow in the Prospectus.

Portrait—an English Flower. Engraved by H. Robinson, from a miniature by T. Hargreaves. Pure, simple, unaffected, and intelligent. Such may we ever see English beauty!—*The Three Maries at the Tomb of Christ.* Engraved by E. Smith, from a picture by B. West, P.R.A. With the exception of the angel, whom we do not admire, one of Mr. West's best compositions.—*Delos.* Engraved by W. Miller, from a drawing by W. Linton. A happy specimen of the rich composite character of Mr. Linton's classical works.—*Interior of a Cathedral at Antwerp.* Engraved by W. Raddlyffe, from a picture by C. Wild. No artist manages subjects of this kind better than Mr. Wild. This is a sweet little exemplification of the fact.—*Cologne on the Rhine.* Engraved by E. Goodall, from a picture by S. Austin. A Cuyper-like scene, full of bustle and interest.—*A Cottage Farm-yard.* Engraved by E. Smith, from a picture by T. Barker. There is something exceedingly beautiful in this simple composition, made up as it is of a very few parts. The grace of the youthful dairy-maid, the character of the cattle, and the arrangement of the various instruments and utensils, all contribute to this pleasing effect.—*Portrait: La Huérfana de Leon.* Engraved by T. L. Grundy, from a picture by H. Liverseege. Graceful, tasteful, and interesting. We admire the intrepidity of Mr. Grundy's line in the drapery: it tells admirably.—*The Deluge.* Engraved by R. Brandard, from a picture by A. Mosses. A sublime and awful scene.—*Saint Cecilia, attended by Angels.* Engraved by H. Robinson, from a picture by Andrea Celesti. The other qualities of this picture are no doubt superior to the design, which is somewhat affected. It is richly engraved by Mr. Robinson.—*A Pass of the Abruzzi—the Bandit's Home.* Engraved by W. Miller, from a picture by J. V. Barber. An exquisite production. It is impossible to conceive any thing finer. It does both Mr. Barber and Mr. Miller infinite credit.—*The Mother.* Engraved by E. Finden, from a picture by R. Westall, R.A. Very pleasing, as all manifestations of natural affection must be.—*Dove-Dale.* Engraved by R. Brandard, from a picture by C. Barber. We should like to know what spot on the face of the globe can boast of a more picturesque and beautiful scene than this.—*Inscription Plate, the Wreath.* Engraved by J. Smith. Shews great taste, and is worthy of being the master of the ceremonies to the volume.

Views in the East. From original Sketches by Captain Robert Elliot, R.N. Part II. Fisher, Son, and Co.

"BENARES," of which the tradition goes that it was originally built of gold, but, in consequence of the sins of the people, was turned into stone;—"Futtyapore Sirci," of the quadrangle of the mosque at which Bishop Heber says that there is no one, either in Oxford or in Cambridge, fit to be compared with it, either in size, or majestic proportions, or beauty of architecture; and "The Tomb of Shere Shah," whose life occupies so considerable a space in the History of Hindostan:—are the three ornaments of Captain Elliot's second number. They are all curious and interesting. Of the last-mentioned, in particular, its isolated situation, as Captain Elliot justly observes, in the centre of a tank, or arti-

ficial piece of water, about a mile in circumference, gives it a peculiarly picturesque appearance. The draftsman whose talents have been exercised on the present number are Messrs. Purser and Prout; the engravers, Messrs. W. Cooke, Brandard, and Le Petit.

Landscape Illustrations of the Waverley Novels. Part VI. Tilt; Andrews.

TALENT has been frequently employed in the illustration of rank; it is gratifying to see the compliment returned, and rank employed in the illustration of talent. Of the four beautiful plates of which this Part consists, viz. "Queensferry," "The Cathedral of St. Magnus," "Stromness," and "Namur," two, viz. "The Cathedral of St. Magnus," and "Stromness," have been engraved from drawings, the one by Mr. Purser, the other by Mr. Copley Fielding, from sketches by the Marchioness of Stafford. They do her ladyship great credit.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

UNPUBLISHED POETRY OF THOMSON.

To the Editor, &c.

SIR,—I believe there is no English poet of standard reputation of whom so many remains have continued after death unpublished as James Thomson. Much indeed has been done, in the full and elaborate edition incorporated into Mr. Pickering's Aldine series of the poets, of which you lately spoke so handsomely, towards collecting these scattered relics: the editor of that beautiful publication has enriched his pages with a great number of smaller pieces previously unknown, as well as with various readings and annotations to many others. The following, however, unquestionably a genuine production of the same writer, has escaped him: it has never, I believe, appeared in print, though I have seen more than one transcript of it; that from which I now write is contained in a MS. volume of dramatic and other collections, by a Mr. Ogilvie, who published a work on gems towards the latter end of the past century. Should you deem the insertion of these stanzas any credit to your Journal, no one will be better pleased to see them there than your friend and correspondent,

ACIDALIS.

Sept. 30, 1830.

Sweet tyrant, Love! but hear me now,
And cure, while young, this pleasing smart,
Or rather aid my trembling vow,
And teach me to reveal my heart.
Tell her, whose goodness is my bane,
Whose looks have smiled my peace away—
Oh, whisper how she gives me pain,
Whilst undesigning, frank, and gay!

'Tis not for common charms I sigh,
For what the vulgar beauty call;
'Tis not a cheek, a lip, an eye—
But 'tis the soul that lights them all.
For that I drop the tender tear,
For that I make this artless moan,
Oh, sigh it, Love, into her ear,
And make the bashful lover known!

THE REALMS OF AIR.

THE realms on high—the boundless halls,
Where sports the wing of light,
And Morn sends forth her radiant guest unutterably bright,
And evening rears her gorgeous piles amidst the purple ray,—
How glorious in their far extent and ever fair are they!

The dark autumnal firmament, the low cloud sweeping by, [sky—
The unimaginable depth of summer's liquid Who hath not felt in these a power, enduring, undefined— [the mind?
A freshness to the severed brow, a solace to But most when, robed in nun-like garb, with sober pace and still,
The dun night settles mournfully on wood and fading hill,

And glancing through its misty veil, o'er ocean's depths afar, [solitary star.
Shines here and there, with fitful beams, a
Then worried sense and soul alike receive a nobler birth,
Then flies the kindling spirit forth beyond the thrall of earth;
While lasts that soft and tranquil hour, to thought's high impulse given,
A chartered habitant of space—a denizen of heaven!
Then, seen in those eternal depths, the forms of vanished days
Come dimly from their far abodes to meet the mourner's gaze;
And they the fondly cherished once, and they the loved in vain,
Smile tranquilly, as erst they smiled, restored and hailed again.
And words which, breathed in long-past years, the ear remembers yet,
And sounds whose low endearing tone the heart shall not forget;
The parent speech, the friendly voice, the whispered vow, are there,
And fill with gentle melody the shadowy Realms of Air. J. F. HOLLINGS.

SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

VISIT TO THE SORDI-MUTTI, AT GENOA.*

GENOA is a pleasant city—pleasant, but hot—at least in August; nevertheless, even at that season, it has its charms, and they are charms of the highest order. Delicious 'tis to sit in the spacious sala, covered with frescos and mirrors, of one of the hotels fronting the bluest of bays, in full, slippered, neckclothless ease, discussing one's *café*, with ortolans and fricasseed fresh-caught anchovies, while the soft breeze from the Mediterranean is waving aside the wide-flowing curtains—a very metaphor of languid and indolent *insouciance*. Delicious 'tis, at eventide, to lean on the marble balconies of the before-mentioned albergo, gazing on the silvery moon, sparkling on the waves and illuminating the mass of winged feluccas that repose on the waters beneath. At such a season one feels that one is in *Italy*—that in no other clime could such scenes be. But, more delicious than all, to me, 'tis to row out, in the cool twilight, and lave one's fevered limbs in the lucid and buoyant waters. Beautiful Mediterranean! fairest of seas! never shall I forget my first plunge, exulting, into thy tideless waves. Blue as a violet were they—soft in their summer slumber—and warm as milk, not of roses, but of the cow, fresh from the dairy.

But what has all this to do with the Sordi-mutti? Admitted, nothing: but we are so much delighted with Genoa, that we never speak of it without a rapturous apostrophe.

The institution for the sordi-mutti, or the deaf and dumb, presents infinite attractions to one who would behold how far the latent faculties of the poor creatures labouring under these distressing afflictions may be brought forward and developed. It is, indeed, astonishing what the assiduous attention of the instructors enables them to accomplish. The institution is situated on the rise of the hill; the house is airy and clean, and all the arrangements admirable. The school-room, into which we were introduced, was crowded with intelligent-looking youths, of various ages, all of whom, with the exception of one little boy, appeared perfectly

happy, and conversed together, after their own fashion, with rapid gesticulations. This little fellow, who had just arrived, seemed to consider the confinement irksome, as he ran about with great inquietude, making a low moaning noise. His companions treated him with great kindness and affection.

We were now introduced to the eldest pupil of the establishment, a young man of about twenty years of age, and requested to note down, in *English*, such questions as we wished to propose to him. After some trifling inquiries, which he answered with great readiness, the following questions were put to him by ourselves and a friend, who had been a frequent visitor of the institution:—What were the causes of the English Reformation? in whose reign did it occur? and what influence has it had on the literature and government of England?

In answer to this he wrote (we give the exact phraseology)—“The Reformation occurred in the reign of Henry VIII.—was caused by the dissidences among him and the Court of Rome, by which that prince, who had a skill in theology, profited of these, by separating the English church from that of Rome. Yet had this revolution not happened, the effects in literature would have now been the same; as religion ought to have no relation with natural science. An example of this consequence is to be found among the French. Whatever be the religion, the knowledges are the same among all people, if civilised, and their minds highly cultivated.”

The next propositions were to sound his metaphysical faculties and poetical perceptions. His replies were given with little or no hesitation; and the reader will remark the excellent moral feeling which pervades them.

The great dispute among the learned of France and Italy at this moment is respecting the merits of classic or romantic literature, which latter had its origin in Protestant countries. The Reformation had the effect of making people think, instead of having others to think for them. Do you differ from this opinion? “As romantic literature is not to my taste, I cannot give my opinion in favour of the one or the other. I dare only say, that romances are sometimes the source of corruption in customs. My pleasing literature is that of knowing truth; but not to learn fables or chimeric accounts, lest they are not turning on morals, as allegories are.”

Have you studied metre, and are you able to detect false quantities?—that is, do you know whether, in Latin verse, a word consists of spondee or dactyls? “Deaf and dumb as I am, I could feel no charm in harmony; therefore I would not endeavour to render myself acquainted with that branch of knowledge.”

You once told me you preferred French to all other poetry. Are you not sensible of the beauty of poetical compositions which only concern the imagination—the choice of words, the combination of words having many vowels in them? Do you not think, that by practice you could write verses?—I speak not of the utility of such a study; I merely speak of its possibility. “It is true that I like French poetry; but I am not acquainted with any precept concerning that art, as *metro rima*, and the several apprehensions of poetical composition. I can vouch to become able to write in verses, if I had leisure to apply to it; and I have found in some American and Irish reports, that some deaf mutes wrote, in English, verses; but I cannot believe it without my own eyes; for printed publications are sometimes simulated.”

We appeal to the reader, if the foregoing are not indications of a most excellent heart and singularly good understanding. After communicating our lively satisfaction to the young man, and examining more fully the details of the institution, we departed, greatly gratified, and not a little affected with our interesting visit.

MUSIC.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

BEFORE the departure from this country of the celebrated Hummel, a number of his manuscript compositions for the piano-forte were purchased by Messrs. Cramer, Addison, and Beale. Some of these are now printed, and have just reached us;—too late, however, to be noticed this week with that attention due to the author's rank as a musician. In our next No. we purpose giving to our musical readers an account of these new and important piano-forte works.

DRAMA.

DRURY LANE.

THIS theatre opened on Friday, the 1st of October, with the comedy of the *Hypocrite*, the farce of *Deaf as a Post*, and the opera of *Massaniello*. Nine acts, besides three grand overtures, and “God save the King!” Mr. Lee! Mr. Lee! Have you taken a leaf out of Mr. Morris's book? Turn over a new one, pray. Seven acts and two overtures are quite enough for one evening, depend upon it. “Always,” say the doctors, “leave off with an appetite.” Unless you wish to sicken a child of plum-cake, never “let the little darling eat as much as it can.” Our first approbation shall be bestowed on the orchestra; materially improved both in shape and occupants, and under the sway of the first English dramatic composer, we may now perchance hear songs accompanied, not smothered; and the excuse for being imperfect in the words, or careless of enunciation, will no longer serve the singer. The overtures to *Anacreon*, *Guillaume Tell*, and *Massaniello*, on Friday, and that to *Oberon* on Saturday, were admirably performed;—and the hushing down of the pit at the *premier coup d'archet*, gives earnest of its inclination to attend, and of its consequent belief that there is something worth attending to. The house looked well, and was completely filled on Friday. Dowton, Liston, Mrs. Orger, and the rest of the deserved favourites, were heartily welcomed. Miss Byfield has not improved since we heard her at Covent Garden. She then promised goodly things, and may yet, with due care, perform them. Of Miss Pearson, the first fair *débütante* of the season, we would rather speak when we have heard her in some more truly operatical part than that allotted to her on Saturday. As an actress, we have great fear she is hopeless.

COVENT GARDEN.

THIS theatre opened on Monday last with *Romeo and Juliet*, and a numerous audience assembled to greet Miss Fanny Kemble on her return to the metropolis. Her person has increased during her trip, and practice has certainly not injured her performance. She was warmly applauded throughout. Mr. C. Kemble's *Mercutio* was, as usual, admirable. We were glad to see him looking so well. Mrs. Gibbs made her first appearance as the *Nurse*; and though we can never cease to regret our dear, dear Mrs. Davenport, we most

* From the pen of a Friend who has just returned from Italy.—Ed. L. G.

willingly admit that divine old lady's point lace pinner could not have descended upon a worthier representative. *Black-eyed Susan* followed the tragedy. We are glad of any excuse that will enable us to witness the acting of T. P. Cooke, and *Black-eyed Susan* is certainly not the worst piece of its kind. It has also brought, and may yet bring, the house a great deal of money; therefore (for we feel deeply the force of the last admission) we will only say, we shall be happy when Mr. Jerrold furnishes Covent Garden with something as attractive and more suitable to its stage; and surely that is wishing no harm to any one.

ADELPHI.

THIS theatre also opened on Monday evening, entirely newly decorated, and most tastefully so. This agreeable change has been effected in a few days only, by, we suspect, that theatrical Aladdin, Mr. Beazely. A new melo-drama, by Mr. Ball, entitled, *The Black Vulture, or the Wheel of Death!* was produced, with all the customary red, blue, green, and other fires; and cars flew up, and floors went down, as they are wont to do in pieces of this description; and never did we see a stage so movable at pleasure in every direction. The effects are marvellous, and the *Black Vulture* quite flew away with an applauding audience. Miss M. Glover made a favourable debut as the heroine, and sang a very pretty ballad of Rodwell's—very prettily: the whole music, indeed, does great credit to the rising composer.

VARIETIES.

Siberia.—In a note communicated last year to the Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburg, by M. Hansteen, a traveller in Siberia, the geographical position of Yenisseisk, one of the most considerable towns in Siberia, 1173 leagues from Moscow, and 1348 from St. Petersburg, is stated to have been ascertained to be 109° 50' 34" east longitude from the island of Ferro, and 58° 27' 19" north latitude. In 4829, the population of this town consisted of 2,726 inhabitants.

French Academy.—It was recently reported in Paris, that M. Quatremère de Quincy was about to retire from his office of perpetual Secretary to the Academy, and that it was proposed to replace him by M. Raoul-Rochette. At the last meeting of the Academy, however, M. Quatremère de Quincy signified his intention of retaining his situation. We mention the circumstance only for the purpose of noticing the political character which even literary and scientific questions now assume in France. The subject of M. Raoul-Rochette's qualifications was discussed with a constant reference to his political opinions:—"He had not the political morality necessary at present to deserve the suffrages of honourable and enlightened men." Is this liberal?

American Inventions: Steam Coach.—A New York paper gives the following account of a steam coach recently built at Cincinnati, which it says promises to surpass every thing of the kind in other countries:—"This engine, independent of the boiler, is made so compact, that a box two feet long, one foot wide, and one foot deep, would contain it if taken to pieces! and yet, such is its power, it will overcome a rise of forty-five feet in the mile, without any essential variation in its velocity. We rode in the carriage propelled by it at the rate of fourteen to sixteen miles an hour, on a circular road: the same force would propel the same weight twenty miles an

hour, and more, on a straight line, there being so much less friction. Another great improvement consists in the mode of applying the power, and another in the construction of the boiler, which is perfectly novel. Add to which, the consumption of fuel does not exceed one fourth a cord a-week, to run from nine in the morning to nine in the evening. It appears, in fact, to have been reserved for a citizen of Cincinnati to bring this great improvement in travelling so near perfection."

Coach Wheels.—The same paper gives an account of an improvement in the nave or hub of the wheels of stage coaches:—"The hub or nave of the wheel is made of cast iron, the spokes are driven in as in the common wheel, the inner part or chamber of the hub is 6½ inches in diameter, and 6½ inches deep. In this chamber eight rollers are placed, four large, and four small ones; the large ones are 4½ inches long, and 2½ inches in diameter; the small rollers are 5½ inches long, and ¾ of an inch in diameter. The large rollers are placed in the chamber, and surround the axle at right angles; the periphery of these rollers sustains the whole weight of the axle, and rests on the chamber of the hub; they have no axle or journal, and do not come in contact with each other by half an inch. They are kept in their proper angles by means of the small rollers, one of which is placed in the space between each of the large rollers, with which they are brought into contact. The small rollers do not touch the chamber or axle, but are kept in their proper position by means of a flange ring, on which they revolve. By this arrangement the entire roller motion and principle is obtained, the whole of the bodies revolving around their own centres and around the main axle, without the use of journals."

Shakespeare.—The proposition is again afloat for erecting a monument in the metropolis in honour of Shakespeare: a committee, consisting of many influential persons, have undertaken to promote this design.

Blue Colour.—The following is given as a method of extracting a blue colour from the straw of buckwheat. The straw should be gathered before the grain is quite dry, and placed on the ground in the sun, until it becomes sufficiently dry to be taken from the husks with facility. The wheat having been removed, the straw is to be piled up, moistened, and left to ferment till it is in a state of decomposition, when it will become of a blue colour: this indicates the period when it should be gathered, and formed into cakes, which are to be dried in the sun, or in a stove. On these cakes being boiled in water, the water assumes a strong blue colour, which will not change either in vinegar or in sulphuric acid. It may, however, be turned into red with alkali, into a light black with bruised gall nuts, and into a beautiful green by evaporation. Stuffs dyed blue with this solution, which is to be used in the same way as vegetable matters of a similar species employed in dyeing, become of a beautiful and durable colour.

Heat.—M. Lechevallier, a French officer of artillery, has been making some experiments on the calefaction of water in red-hot vessels, which have induced him to conclude, that the temperature of the water so heated is always less than 100 degrees; and, consequently, that the principle of the equilibrium of temperature in a closed space, which has hitherto been considered a fundamental principle in the theory of heat, must be abandoned.

Area of Europe.—The surface of the different European states in geographic square

miles is as follows: Russia 375,174, Austria 12,153, France 10,086, Great Britain 5,535, Prussia 5,040, the Netherlands (Belgium) 1,196, Sweden 7,935, Norway 5,798, Denmark 1,019, Poland 2,293, Spain 8,446, Portugal 1,722, two Sicilies 1,987, Sardinia 1,363, the Pope's territory 811, Tuscany 395, Switzerland 696, European Turkey 10,000, Bavaria 1,363, Saxony 348, Hanover 695, Wurtemberg 359, Baden 276, Hesse Darmstadt 185, Hesse Cassel 208.

To dry and preserve Meat.—Cut the meat into pieces of several pounds each, taking out the bones, and dry it in a hot-house, eight feet long by four and a half wide, and five and a half high, heated by means of stoves to fifty-five degrees of Reaumur, and let it remain for 72 hours. Then plunge it in a bath of gelatine, and replace it in the hot-house until the moisture is evaporated. The gelatine forms a sort of varnish, but white of egg will do as well. When the meat is to be used, soak it in the water in which it is to be boiled for 12 hours, and boil only for a few minutes, which will be sufficient. Meat thus preserved will keep for a long time, and eats as well and as tender as fresh meat.

The Sensibility of the Ear.—It is well known that when a sonorous body put in motion, makes fewer than thirty-two vibrations in a second, it gives no perceptible sound. In proportion also as the number of vibrations increases, the sound becomes sharper and sharper, until a moment arrives at which it ceases to be perceptible. Natural philosophers have not yet agreed as to the number of vibrations correspondent with this higher limitation. Some have supposed eight thousand in a second, some twelve. M. Savart, of the French Academy, has been making experiments to discover the fact. He attributes the uncertainty which has hitherto prevailed on the subject to the use of an apparatus which has necessarily diminished the intensity of the sound in proportion to the increase in the number of vibrations; and, having found the means of remedying this inconvenience, and at the same time of ascertaining with great accuracy the number of vibrations, he has obtained perceptible sounds resulting from forty-eight thousand vibrations in a second!

Unfortunate Coincidence.—I lately called upon my friend B—, in total ignorance of his recent reverse at Crockford's, for the purpose of congratulating him upon the immediate probability of his hopes of an heir being realised; but finding him in dreadfully low spirits, I asked the cause. "D—n it!" said he, "how can a man be otherwise, when his wife and income are both confined at once?"

Fat Living.—The vicarage of Wyburn, or Wintburn, in Cumberland, is of the following tempting value, viz. fifty shillings per annum, a new surplice, a pair of clogs, and feed on the common for one goose!!! This favoured church preferment is in a wild country, inhabited by shepherds. The service is once a fortnight. The clerk keeps a pot-house opposite the church, and when there is no congregation, the Vicar and Moses regale themselves at the bar.

Geometry.—A few days before the death of Fourier, that celebrated geometrician sent to the press a treatise, entitled, "General Remarks on the Application of the Principles of the Algebraic Analysis to Transcendent Equations." Among other observations, he says,—"The theory of heat was explained, for the first time, about the end of the year 1807, in a manuscript work still deposited in the archives of the Institute. The physical and analytical

principles which served as the foundation of that inquiry, were at first not at all comprehended. Several years elapsed before their accuracy was acknowledged. Even at the present day, the cosmological results of that theory, the notion of the temperature of planetary spaces, the mathematical laws of radiating heat, the differential equations of the motion of heat in liquids, have not yet attracted the attention of all the principal geometers. Mathematical truths, although strictly demonstrated, establish themselves only after a long examination. The general theorems which I have used to integrate differential equations, are applicable to a great many physical questions, which have never been solved. The knowledge of those theorems, and of the method of integration derived from them, is become pretty general; but the other results of the theory are little known."

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

[Literary Gazette Weekly Advertisement, No. XII. Oct. 9.]

Mr. John Timbs, Editor of "Laconics," has in the press Knowledge for the People, or the Plain Why and Because.—Maxwell, a Story of the Middle Ages, by the Author of "Sayings and Doings."—The Turf, a Satirical Novel.—The French Revolution of 1830, by Dr. A. Turnbull, Esq., embellished with Portraits.—The second volume of the Iris, a Religious and Literary Offering for 1831, edited by the Rev. Thomas Dale, M.A.—The Official Calendar for 1830.—The Life of Sir Humphry Davy, Bart., by Dr. A. J. Paris.—Scenes of Life and Shades of Character.—The Life of Titian, by James Northcote, Esq. R.A.—The Gentleman in Black, illustrated by numerous engravings, from designs by George Cruikshank.—The Water Witch, by the Author of "The Red Rover."—Narrative of a Journey through Greece in 1830, by Capt. T. Trant.—Kotzebue's New Voyage round the World, in the Years 1823, 24, 25, and 36.—Hope Leslie, a Tale, by the Author of "Redwood."—Clarence, &c.—The Literary Correspondence of John Pinkerton, Esq., F.R.S., edited by Dawson Turner.

Foreign Annuals.—As we have begun the annual course of our own Annuals, we may also notice that the Germans already imported are the Penelope, Minerva, Urania, Novellenkranz, Frauentaschenbuch, Taschenbuch der Liebe, Cornelia Taschenbuch, Mouselmanach, Almanach Dramatischer, and Politisches Taschenbuch, which cost from 8s. to 12s., the general price being 10s.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Cooper's Lectures on Anatomy, Vol. II. royal 8vo. 15s. 6d.—The Pulpit, Vol. XIV. 8vo. 7s. 6d. bds.—Quin's Historical Atlas, 4to. 3s. 10s. 6d. bds.—Jesse's Tales of the Dead, and other Poems, fcp. 5s. 6d. bds.—Tales of Other Days, illustrated by Cruikshank, post 8vo. 9s. 6d. bds.—Illustrations to ditto, proofs, 8vo. 5s. sewed.—Halliwell's Napoleon, Vol. III. 8vo. 11s. 6d. bds.—Macmillan's Philosophy of Sleep, 12mo. 7s. 6d. bds.—Turner's Practical Baker and Confectioner, 12mo. 5s. 6d. bds.—Peisodorus's Law Reports, Vol. XV. with Index, royal 8vo. 11s. 6d. bds.—Parke's Musical Memoirs, 2 vols. royal 12mo. 11s. 6d. bds.—Nares' Burleigh, Vol. II. 4to. 3s. 6d. bds.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, 1830.

September.	Thermometer.	Barometer.
Thursday... 30	From 37. to 57.	29.58 to 29.90
October.		
Friday... 1	— 33. — 60.	30.02 Stationary
Saturday... 2	— 46. — 61.	30.02 to 30.98
Sunday... 3	— 35. — 61.	29.93 to 30.92
Monday... 4	— 49. — 63.	30.03 — 30.29
Tuesday... 5	— 42. — 59.	30.30 Stationary
Wednesday 6	— 39. — 57.	30.30 to 30.26

Except the 2d and 3d, when a little rain fell, generally clear.
Rain fallen, .075 of an inch.
Edmonton. Latitude... 51° 37' 33" N.
Longitude... 0 3 21 W. of Greenwich.
CHARLES H. ADAMS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have nothing to do with publishers' motives, &c.; we only look to the works produced, and not to their producers. As far as we know of the matter, from its outward show, we do not, however, approve of Mr. Colburn's advertising Lady Morgan's works, at the precise period he did, at half price: but as the worthy bibliophile has just, as we learn, taken another lady to himself for life, we shall not embarrass him with further remark at this time.

ENARRA.—In our list of pieces produced at the Adelphi by the English Opera Company, the name of Raymond was attached to the *Foster Brothers* and the *Irish Girl*, by mistake. The author of the former is not known to us; the latter is by Mr. Ryan, as stated in a previous *Literary Gazette*.

ADVERTISEMENTS, Connected with Literature and the Arts.

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EDINBURGH REVIEW. Advertisements, Notices, &c. to be inserted in the General Advertising Sheet of No. 103 of the Edinburgh Review, are requested to be sent to Longman and Co. Paternoster Row, by Monday the 11th; and Prospectuses, Catalogues, Bills, &c. to be stitched in the Number, not later than the 15th. Advertisers will perceive the great advantage of sending their Advertisements and Bills early, as they are placed in the exact order they are received by the Publishers.

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List No. III. may be seen affixed to the Gentleman's Magazine for this month.

BOOKS PUBLISHED THIS DAY.

WHITTAKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE for October contains a Portrait of Louis-Philippe, King of the French, and the following Articles:—King of the French, France, Wellington, and Europe—Saturn and his Satellites, by Robert Montgomery—III. Maxims on Men and Manners, by the late William Hazlitt—IV. The Irish Priest and his Niece—V. France and Miss Morgan—VI. The Missing Musician—VII. The Netherlands—VIII. Paragraphs on Prejudice, by the late William Hazlitt—IX. Father Murphy's Dream—X. John Galt and Lord Byron—XI. The Golden City—XII. Sir George Murray and the Spectator—XIII. Marriage à la Mode—XIV. Ballad à la Bayly—XV. Notes of the Month on Affairs in General—Review of New Books, &c. &c. Price 2s. 6d.
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